

# Sunday 3 May 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to  
us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going  
before us you put into our minds  
good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used  
as either the first or second reading.*

### Either Acts 7:55-end

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and  
the council, Stephen, filled with the  
Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and  
saw the glory of God and Jesus  
standing at the right hand of God.  
“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens  
opened and the Son of Man standing  
at the right hand of God!” But they  
covered their ears, and with a loud  
shout all rushed together against him.  
Then they dragged him out of the  
city and began to stone him; and the  
witnesses laid their coats at the feet  
of a young man named Saul. While they  
were stoning Stephen, he prayed,  
“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then  
he knelt down and cried out in a loud  
voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin  
against them.” When he had said this,  
he died.

Or **Genesis 8:1-19**

### PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16 (or 31:1-5)



**R** *Into your hands I commend my  
spirit, for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord God of truth.*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save  
me, for you are my rock and my  
stronghold;  
guide me, and lead me for your  
name's sake. **R**

Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me,  
for you are my strength.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord  
God of truth. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Either 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of  
Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the  
pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you  
may grow into salvation – if indeed  
you have tasted that the Lord is  
good. Come to him, a living stone,  
though rejected by mortals yet  
chosen and precious in God's sight.  
Like living stones, let yourselves be  
built into a spiritual house, to be a  
holy priesthood, to offer spiritual  
sacrifices acceptable to God through  
Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:  
“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a  
cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not  
be put to shame.” To you then who  
believe, he is precious; but for those  
who do not believe, “The stone that  
the builders rejected has become the  
very head of the corner,” and  
“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”  
They stumble because they disobey  
the word, as they were destined to  
do. But you are a chosen race, a  
royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's  
own people, in order that you may  
proclaim the mighty acts of him who  
called you out of darkness into his  
marvellous light. Once you were  
not a people, but now you are  
God's people; once you had not  
received mercy, but now you have  
received mercy.

Or **Acts 7:55-end**

## GOSPEL John 14:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not  
let your hearts be troubled. Believe in  
God, believe also in me. In my Father's  
house there are many dwelling-places.  
If it were not so, would I have told you  
that I go to prepare a place for you?  
And if I go and prepare a place for  
you, I will come again and will take you  
to myself, so that where I am, there  
you may be also. And you know the  
way to the place where I am going.”  
Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do  
not know where you are going. How  
can we know the way?” Jesus said to  
him, “I am the way, and the truth, and  
the life. No one comes to the Father  
except through me. If you know me,  
you will know my Father also. From  
now on you do know him and have  
seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord,  
show us the Father, and we will be  
satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I  
been with you all this time, Philip, and  
you still do not know me? Whoever  
has seen me has seen the Father. How  
can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do  
you not believe that I am in the Father  
and the Father is in me? The words  
that I say to you I do not speak on my  
own; but the Father who dwells in me  
does his works. Believe me that I am in  
the Father and the Father is in me; but  
if you do not, then believe me because  
of the works themselves. Very truly, I  
tell you, the one who believes in me  
will also do the works that I do and, in  
fact, will do greater works than these,  
because I am going to the Father. I  
will do whatever you ask in my name,  
so that the Father may be glorified in  
the Son. If in my name you ask me for  
anything, I will do it.”

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the  
truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.

