

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, Year B

Season of Easter

First Reading † Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they did not believe that he was a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, brought him to the apostles, and explained how on the road he had seen the Lord and spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken fearlessly in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go in and out with them in Jerusalem, speaking fearlessly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists, and they determined to kill him. When the brothers got to know of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. The church throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria had peace; being built up and progressing in the fear of the Lord; encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase in numbers.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 21:26-28, 30-32

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live on for ever and ever!

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

And my soul shall live for him, my offspring serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his saving justice to peoples yet unborn,
'These are the things the Lord has done.'

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading † 1 John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

A reading from the first letter of St John

Children,
let us love not in word and speech,
but in action and truth.

By this we shall know that we belong to the truth
and it will reassure us in his presence,
even if our own hearts condemn us,
that God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.

My dear friends,
if our own hearts do not condemn us,
we can be fearless before God,
and whatever we ask
we shall receive from him,
because we keep his commandments
and do what is pleasing to him.

His commandment is this,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we should love one another
as he commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments
abides in God, and God in that person.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † John 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vine-grower.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes
to make it bear more fruit.

You are clean already,
through the word that I have spoken to you.
Remain in me, and I in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit by itself,
unless it remains part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, and I in that person,
bears fruit in plenty;
for apart from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me
is thrown away like a branch and withers.
These branches are collected, thrown on the fire and burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask for whatever you please
and it will be done for you.

In this my Father is glorified,
that you should bear much fruit
and be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Monday of the fifth week of Easter