

## THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

*The word of the Lord*

## THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

*R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.*

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just; for praise is fitting from the upright. Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

*R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.*

The word of the LORD is upright, and all his works to be trusted. The LORD loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

*R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.*

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

*R. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.*

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' 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, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.’

## THE REFLECTION

I was once upgraded in a hotel to a bigger, massive room in a hotel which had been a country house, with a big TV, a table for meals served there, a view over fields and hills with real fresh air. Plenty of rooms to meetup with or just relax in. There was a wine bar like Gordon's on the embankment with a free restaurant like Rules in Covent Garden nearby. It did give me an idea of how paradise might be, which would be better than anything I could imagine. I love the Gospel messages that speak of a place for everyone in the heavenly home. Today's Gospel is often used at funerals as it reinforces the message of meeting again, it is as if Jesus is describing a perfect mansion with many rooms. Meeting joyfully with people, places to meet, joyful conversations and things to do well.

John recalls the play on words, Thomas outspoken and unafraid to challenge Jesus, asks what he means about knowing the way, to get there? Way of the Sea, Galilee-Jerusalem Road? He's a real man asking directions? Jesus seriously tells him, truthfully that he is the Way, reinforcing it with "the truth and the Life. Follow his ways and you will get there. Sometimes Jesus says they have ears to hear but do not listen, he is often too clever. Our Catholic tradition allows us to develop and understand his meaning.

Philip's question leads Jesus to announce he has the mind of God, we will soon be celebrating the Trinity, the celebration of the Father Son and Holy spirit being of one mind and inviting us to this place. Jesus speaks what is the mind of God, the plan of God to be revealed to us.

Jesus' final message of encouragement promises the disciples they will do miracles as well, the Acts of the Apostles book mentions some of them. Being with him wonderful things will happen, following his way in the light to the truth. I find living trusting God at all times is a joyful way of living with joy and certainty.