

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.

Psalm

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Second Reading

Let us pray in the freedom of the sons and daughters of God.

Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have revealed to the nations your saving power
and filled all ages with the words of a new song.

Hear the echo of this hymn.

Give us voice to sing your praise
throughout this Easter season of joy.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to explore further:
Acts 6: 1-7; Psalm 32 (33); 1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12



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'I am the Way,
the Truth,
and the Life.'
John 14: 6

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PREGO LEAFLET

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Year A, 3rd May 2026

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone

As we continue to live through this joyful Eastertide, the readings this week show us the new Christians attempting to organise their community. After prayer and discernment, they solve the dispute between the Hebrews and the Hellenists and appoint seven leaders. (**First Reading**)

The **Psalm** celebrates in song the word of the Lord, who is merciful and loves justice and right.

The **Second Reading** seeks to reassure us. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Christ is the cornerstone of the building, and all Christians its living stones.

The **Gospel** comes from the Last Supper discourse, where Jesus prepares his friends for his departure. Thomas and Philip find it hard to follow his words, but they will never be alone, for Jesus will be alongside them. He is the way, the truth and the life.

This week, we pray for all who are unable to accept Jesus as the cornerstone of their life. As we go about our own lives in the coming days, we might use the response to the psalm: 'May your merciful love be upon me, as I hope in you, O Lord'.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may,
under your protective care,
bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2: 4–9

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.

I settle down and try to put aside my worries, my anxieties, my ‘to-do’ list. This is a time I choose to spend with the Lord. For a few moments I focus on my breathing without changing it.

I may like to take a small stone in my hand, or focus on a rock outside, or simply imagine myself holding a stone. What is that like?

I spend a few moments becoming familiar with my stone, whether real or virtual.

Then I slowly read the text and pause. Which phrases strike me?

Touching my own stone, I ponder. Who are the people that consider me to be their ‘living stone’? I hold them up to the Lord.

Then I reflect on the notion of a cornerstone ... the stone that holds a building together. How far can I say that Jesus is the cornerstone of my own life? How far do people around me realise this?

How do I feel when I consider that I am part of a ‘chosen race’, a ‘holy nation’? Do I relish this exclusive status, or does it make me uneasy ... perhaps unworthy? Or something quite different?

As part of a ‘royal priesthood,’ what does the Lord expect of me?

I speak to him about this, sharing my thoughts, and listening to what he says to me. I thank him that he has called me ‘out of darkness into his marvellous light’. *Glory be*

Gospel John 14: 1–12

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 they do, because I am going to the Father.’

Whether I choose to pray this text using my imagination, or simply listen to John as he tells me how Jesus was preparing his disciples, I pause.

I try to achieve some inner calm, especially if I’ve come to pray with ‘a troubled heart’.

When I’m ready, I may be drawn to reflect on the ‘many rooms’ in the Father’s house. What are they like? Who will I find there?

How does that make me feel? Encouraged ... hopeful ... fearful ... full of dread? Or something else?

I then perhaps focus on Thomas and Philip. They have questions for Jesus. What about me? If I have questions to ask, now would be a good time to do so. I listen to the Lord’s answer.

I conclude my prayer thanking the Lord who is my way, my truth and my life.