

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 1) Acts 6:1-7
- 2) 1 Peter 2:4-9
- 3) John 14:1-12

**FOCUS:** We are called to the difficult work of discipleship, to be both hearers and doers of the word.

In and through our baptism, we were given new life in Christ and became members of the Body of Christ – the Church. As such, each of us is called to holiness, and to use our unique gifts and talents to further the work and mission of the Church. We are also called to use these gifts to help build up God’s kingdom on earth, and lead lives which give glory to God.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The reading from Acts tells of the Apostles ordaining seven men as deacons to help ensure the needs of those in the early Church were being served as the Church continued to grow and develop. The second reading uses Hebrew Scripture to illustrate that Christ is the foundation of the Church, and his followers are *living stones* – a holy people. In the Gospel, Jesus says that he is *the way and the truth and the life*.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Father of mercy and love, we present our needs and petitions to you.

- 1) For all members of the Church, may our lives of service and outreach proclaim to all that Jesus is Savior of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For those who have accepted the responsibility of public service, may they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help them carry out their duties with wisdom and integrity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For children who live in poverty, may they be protected from harm and receive the assistance they need to develop their unique gifts and talents to their fullest potential, so they lead lives which make a difference in the world and give glory to God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today and all members of our parish family, may we strive to live the call of discipleship by our outreach to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead and all who have died, may they see God face to face in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, hear these and all of our petitions, and look with mercy on your people who strive to follow you. We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.