

**Sunday, May 12, 2024**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 1) Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
- 2) 1 John 4:11-16
- 3) John 17:11b-19

**FOCUS:** Seek above all else to be in union with God.

When praying for his disciples, Jesus prayed for their protection from the power of the evil one, and for their union with God. In other words, he prayed for their holiness. This is a good reminder that what matters most is our holiness, and holiness comes through our union with God, the source of all holiness. Let us strive to live in a manner that reflects this purpose.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

In the first reading, Matthias is selected by lot to replace Judas and be counted as a witness to the Resurrection. In the second reading, John explains that God has revealed his love by sharing his Spirit with us and by sending his Son for our salvation. In the Gospel, Jesus prays that the Father will preserve his disciples in union with him, protect them from the evil one, and sanctify them in his truth.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Confident in God's love for us, let us bring before him our prayers and petitions for the Church and the world.

- 1) For all who minister in the Church, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, their hearts may be opened and filled with an abundance of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace in our world, may God guide world leaders in resolving disputes nonviolently, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all parents, may the Lord multiply their joys and ease the burdens of their sorrows, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may the grace of the Eucharist lead us toward greater love for Christ and all his people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may our Savior, our Blessed Mother, and all the angels and saints joyfully welcome them to the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, we ask that you graciously hear these prayers and answer them in accordance with your divine will, through Christ our Lord.