

5th Sunday of Easter Time - Year A

- Intro – like last week 1st reading ACTS – Early Church troubles
 - solved with Deacon

Gospel – JC after the last supper (back in time)

- JC going back to Father - what about us?
- 15 years ago Deaconate – I had an idea of what I'd be doing – *NOT the reality*
 - 6yrs parish & SHRC – 7 years BAH – now NSJ
 - What's next? Where am I going – where are you going?
 - THAT is the Gospel **LET US PRAY**

ACTS – I told you the 1st Reading was about the creation of Deacons **READ**

- This first reading from Acts reminds me of my house growing up 2 sisters.
- But it was the Jewish widows and the Greek widows in early Church
 - So what does the Church do? Pray **& Listen** to the HS
 - It worked with the Church because they LISTENED
- Listen to what they did
 - Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task."
 - NONE OF THE 7 have Jewish names – All are Greek names
 - Greeks complained, community prayed – Jews surrendered distribution
- All seven men had a relationship with God
- Role of Serving Tables
 - But filled with the Spirit look where the Spirit led them
 - Steven – Filled with the Holy Spirit – worked great signs and wonders among the people.
 - Philip – Ethiopian eunuch
 - With the HS – they became powerful influences
 - Embracing the HS - WE can be just as powerful
-HOW do you embrace the HS?

To embrace the HS required TRUST – in the NSJ we must rely on TRUST and MERCY
THUS Ps 33 – “Let your mercy be upon us as we place our trust in You” **READ**
Look at the last stanza “the eyes of the Lord are upon those who hope for his Kindness” **us**
SO THAT “he can deliver them – preserve them” Wanna be delivered? Preserved?

In the early Church – this crisis in Acts needed God's help

Could've caused division – but hoping in His kindness, trusting in Mercy
God delivered them & preserved them

Same with us – we are Church – we are NSJ CHURCH

So 2nd reading speaks to us, just like it spoke to early Church **READ**

We are living stones “rejected, but precious in the sight of God”

So - “let yourself be built up into a spiritual house”

NB – granite, Iron, Clay, Slate, Sandstone, Marble – each diff strength/weakness
but together different stones can be a strong, house able to offer praise
– US TOO

- You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (YES ME & YOU)
- Because the same spirit that filled Steven & Philip fills Norwood!

If that is true – where do we go from here? Same questions apostles had for JC

Gospel **READ**

JC says “I am the way, the truth and the life” not “I have told you the way, truth, life”

“I am the way”

If you feel lost in NSJ, know this – if you know Jesus, you already know the way

- Jesus says “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”
- Holy Spirit is alive, vibrant, and living in our midst

No reason WE can’t be just as filled with the HS as the early church **THROUGH OUR FAITH IN JESUS**

Imagine – JC did miracles

Healed the sick Lame Walked Sight to the blind

JC said “whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these” (GET OUT! ME?)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading 1 Acts 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Reading 2 [1 Pt 2:4-9](#)

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture:

Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and

A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Alleluia [Jn 14:6](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel [Jn 14:1-12](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, 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 know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him,

"Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time 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 speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."