

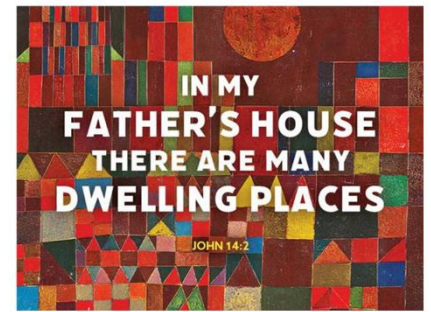
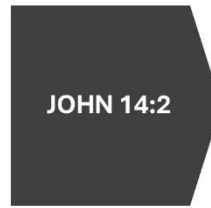
May 23rd, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter lasts for several more weeks. The readings unfold the meaning of the resurrection.



[Acts 7:55-60](#)

The Acts readings in Year A now skip to the narrative of the martyrdom of Stephen. The resurrection opens the church to share in both the Holy Spirit and the sufferings of Christ. Since the fourth century, the church has commemorated the martyrdom of Stephen on the day after Christmas, for the coming of Christ may bring about the death of his servants. Expressing Luke's Christology, Stephen addresses the same prayer to the Lord Jesus that on the cross Jesus had addressed to God; the risen Christ is God for us.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

The psalm sung in response to the reading from Acts is [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#). Like Stephen and the psalmist, we encounter severe pain, but we trust that God will deliver us from our enemies, and we commit our spirit to God. If this situation seems inappropriate for any of us today, we can pray it for everyone who is in dire need.

[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

Year A now backtracks in 1 Peter to hear a richly metaphoric description of the Christian community. Now we, the community of the resurrection, are the infants fed on God's milk, the building erected on the cornerstone of Christ, a nation of priests invited to approach the Almighty, a people enjoying divine light.

[John 14:1-14](#)

Placed in John's gospel as a commentary on the crucifixion as constituting Jesus' glorification, John 14 is appointed during the Easter season as if the discourse applies also to the ascension, which is not recorded in John. On Sunday we see the Son in his body, and so we are seeing also the Father.