

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7**

The First Lesson, Second Lesson and Gospel will be read from the Revised Standard Version Bible.

The Collect and Psalm will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer.

**The Collect:** Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60**

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

### **Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.  
4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.  
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.  
15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.  
16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

## **Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

. 2 Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; 3 for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious;  
5 and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and he who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe,  
“The very stone which the builders rejected  
has become the head of the corner,”

8 and “A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall”; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

#### **Gospel: John 14:1-14**

14 "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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? 3 And when 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. 4 And you know the way where I am going."  
5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father 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. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; 14 if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

#### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing prayer: On May 7 we celebrate the life of Harriet Starr Cannon, Religious.**

**Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Harriet Starr Cannon founded the Community of St. Mary, the first religious order for women formally recognized in The Episcopal Church.

Cannon was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1823 and was orphaned in 1824, when her parents died of yellow fever. She grew up with her only surviving sibling in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the home of relatives. In 1851, Cannon entered the Sisters of the Holy Communion, an order founded by William Augustus Muhlenberg, Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City. The Sisters were heavily involved in the operation of clinics and care facilities that would become St. Luke's Hospital in the City of New York. During her years with the Sisters of the Holy Communion, Cannon served as a nurse.

Over time, Harriet Cannon yearned for a more traditional monastic form of religious life. When agreement could not be reached with the Sisters of the Holy Communion, Cannon and a small group of her sisters moved to form a new order. On the Feast of the Presentation, February 2, 1865, Horatio Potter, Bishop of the Diocese of New York, received from Harriet Cannon and her sisters the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. The sisters began life together as the Community of St. Mary, and Harriet Cannon became the Order's first Superior.

The apostolate of The Community of St. Mary began with nursing and the care of women who had endured difficult circumstances. After time, however, Mother Cannon and her Sisters became increasingly committed to providing free schools for the education of young women in addition to their medical work. The Community continued to grow and developed schools for girls, hospitals, and orphanages in New York, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Mother Cannon died April 5, 1896, at Peekskill, New York.

The Community of St. Mary played a critical role in response to the yellow fever epidemic in Memphis in the 1870's. Sister Constance and her companions are remembered on September 9.

**Let us pray:** Gracious God, you called Harriet Starr Cannon and her companions to revive the religious life in The Episcopal Church and to dedicate their lives to you: Grant that we, after their example, may ever surrender ourselves to the revelation of your holy will; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**