**Reading for Fifth Sunday of Easter - B**

**Reading 1, *Acts 9:26-31***

26 When he got to [Jerusalem](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=6304) he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. 27 Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the [Lord](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) had appeared to him and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached fearlessly at [Damascus](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=3633) in the name of Jesus. 28 Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. 29 But after he had spoken to the Hellenists and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. 30 When the brothers got to know of this, they took him to Caesarea and sent him off from there to Tarsus. 31 The churches throughout Judaea, [Galilee](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=4947) and [Samaria](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=10403) were now left in peace, building themselves up and living in the fear of the Lord; encouraged by the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

### **Responsorial Psalm** [**Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32**](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/psalms/22?26)

R. (26a)**I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.  
The lowly shall eat their fill;  
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:  
"May your hearts live forever!"  
R. **I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**  
  
All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of the nations  
shall bow down before him.  
R. **I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

To him alone shall bow down  
all who sleep in the earth;  
before him shall bend  
all who go down into the dust.  
R.**I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**  
  
And to him my soul shall live;  
my descendants shall serve him.  
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD  
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born  
the justice he has shown.  
R. **I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

**Reading 2, *First John 3:18-24***

18 Children, our love must be not just words or mere talk, but something active and genuine. 19 This [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) be the [proof](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9667) that we belong to the truth, and it [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) convince us in his presence, 20 even if our own feelings condemn us, that [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) is greater than our feelings and knows all things. 21 My dear friends, if our own feelings do not condemn us, we can be fearless before God, 22 and whatever we ask we shall receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what is acceptable to him. 23 His commandment is this, that we should believe in the name of his Son [Jesus](https://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) [Christ](https://www.catholic.org/clife/jesus) and that we should love one another as he commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments remains in God, and [God](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5217) in him. And this is the [proof](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=9667) that he remains in us: the [Spirit](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11004) that he has given us.

**Gospel, *John 15:1-8***

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. 3 You are clean already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, unless it remains part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a branch -- and withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire and are burnt. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for whatever you please and you [will](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=12332) get it. 8 It is to the [glory](https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=5201) of my Father that you should bear much fruit and be my disciples.