

53 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING

Acts 9.26-31

Barnabas described for them how on the road
Saul had seen the Lord.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- ²⁶ When Saul had come to Jerusalem,
he attempted to join the disciples;
and they were all afraid of him,
for they did not believe that he was a disciple.
²⁷ But Barnabas took him,
brought him to the apostles,
and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord,
who had spoken to him,
and how in Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.
²⁸ So Saul went in and out among them in Jerusalem,
speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.
²⁹ He spoke and argued with the Hellenists;
but they were attempting to kill him.
³⁰ When the believers learned of it,
they brought Saul down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.
³¹ Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria
had peace and was built up.
Living in the fear of the Lord
and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,
it increased in numbers.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22.25b-26, 27+29, 30-31 (R.25a)

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

- ²⁵ My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever. R.

- 27** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**
30 I shall live for him and posterity will serve him.
Future generations will be told about the Lord,
31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3.18-24

This is his commandment: we should believe in Jesus
and love one another.

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 18** Little children, let us love,
not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him
20 whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts,
and God knows everything.
21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God;
22 and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God.
23 And this is God's commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
24 All who obey his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.4, 5

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.

Every branch that bears fruit

he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

3 You have already been cleansed

by the word that I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself

unless it abides in the vine,

neither can you unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,

because apart from me you can do nothing.

6 "Whoever does not abide in me

is thrown away like a branch and withers;

such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,

ask for whatever you wish,

and it will be done for you.

8 My Father is glorified by this,

that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.