

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
 who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
 have overcome death and opened to us the gate of
 everlasting life:
 grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our
 minds good desires,
 so by your continual help
 we may bring them to good effect;
 through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING - Acts 7.55-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen,
 filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the
 glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of
 Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered
 their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against
 him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to
 stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a
 young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen,
 he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt
 down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this
 sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.
 This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM - Psalm 31

Response: *I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! alleluia!
 Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
 Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
 and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL - John 14.1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be
 troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's
 house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so,
 would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again
 and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you
 may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am
 going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, 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, you will
 know my Father also. From now on you do know him and
 have seen him.' Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the
 Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I
 been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know
 me? 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 say to
 you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in
 me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and
 the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me
 because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the
 one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and,
 in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going
 to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that
 the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you
 ask me for anything, I will do it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Gracious God
 you show us your way and give us your divine life:
 may everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth;
 we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. *Amen.*