

First Reader: **A READING FROM ACTS**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption’
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are
witnesses.’”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by half verse:**

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
**I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."**
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer,
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life;
**in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People:

Beloved siblings in Christ, peace be with you. Let us pray to our merciful Lord, saying, “Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**”

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that same Spirit comfort and strengthen us as we proclaim your resurrection to the world.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of wisdom, teach and counsel the leaders of the nations. May this world be filled with justice and peace.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God our provider, you have given us this earth as a goodly heritage. May we use its resources wisely and always according to your purpose.

The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

All-knowing God, raise up for this community people who will stand and voice your truth. May we be led by you on good paths of life.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

Merciful God, you are a strong refuge for those in trouble. Protect all those who suffer various trials. Reveal yourself to those who struggle to believe in you. Make all your people glad by the living hope that is found in you.

The congregation may add their petitions, followed by silence.

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of life, may the dying and the dead rest in hope. Give us faith that you do not abandon anyone—even to the grave. And preserve us for the great inheritance you give us through the resurrection of your Son from the dead.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

The Celebrant concludes, adding a Collect.