

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
Acts 6:1-7 — 1Peter 2:4-9 — John 14:1-12

All through the Easter season, our Scriptures focus on the life of the early Church—especially in the Acts of the Apostles.

And through that, we learn, not only, who Jesus is and what he has done...,but also, what that means for us who follow him.

Today, all three readings point us to one central idea.
If you remember nothing else, remember this: You are the Temple...
and the Temple exists for others.

First, the Temple: For the people of Israel, the Temple in Jerusalem was everything. It was the most important place in their world. Why? Because it was believed to be the dwelling place of God—the place where God and his people met.

If you wanted to encounter God... you went to the Temple.

Now listen to what's happening in our readings.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church is growing rapidly—even priests are becoming believers. That's remarkable, because priests were the ones who served in the Temple. They were the mediators between God and the people.

But now something has changed.

The first Christians have come to understand that **Jesus himself is the true Temple**. He is now the place where God meets his people. If you want healing, hope, forgiveness, life—you come to him.

And it doesn't stop there. As we hear in the Second Reading from Peter, something even more astonishing is revealed:

Christ is the cornerstone...**and we are the living stones.**

In Christ, and only in Him, we are being built into a spiritual house.

Which means this: **We—the Church—are now the Temple.**

We are the place where God desires to dwell.

We are the place where others are meant to encounter Him.

Now that sounds beautiful—and it is.

But before we get too comfortable with that idea, we have to remember something very important: **The Temple never existed for itself.**

The Temple existed so that people could come and meet God—
to find healing...
to receive hope...
to be challenged and changed.

And that means the same is true for us.

If you are a “living stone”...if you are part of this Temple...
then your life is not just about you.
Your life is meant to be a place where someone else can meet God.

And this is where it becomes very concrete.

- When someone is burdened or discouraged—do they find hope in you?
- When someone is hurting—do they experience patience, compassion, mercy?
- When someone is drifting—do you gently call them back to what is true and good?

That’s what it means to be the Temple. Not in theory.
But in very ordinary, daily ways.

In your family...
in your workplace...
in your conversations...

People should be able to encounter something of God through you.

Jesus says in the Gospel today:
“Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am with you.”

And now, through His Body—the Church—He continues to be present
in the world.

Through you.

So here’s the question we have to carry with us:
If I am the Temple... who is encountering God through me?
Because that is our mission.

Not just to believe in Christ...
but to make Him present.

Not just to receive His life...
but to become a place where others can find it.

So this week, keep it simple.
Let one person encounter God through you.
In your patience.
In your kindness.
In your truth.
In your love.
Because you are the Temple.
And the Temple exists... so that others may meet God.