For April 29, 2018
Which is the 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Lectionary # 53

Readings: 5th Sunday of Easter
I: Acts 9:26-31
II: 1 John 3:18-24
G: John 15:1-8

For reflection

At this time in the Church year, nearing the end of the Easter season, the readings reflect the growing Christian communities establishing themselves, even while facing persecution. While the number of disciples grew, it became even more important for them to remain attached to the heart of their new faith: the person, the message, and the ongoing presence of Jesus Christ. The Gospel reading actually comes from John’s account of the Last Supper. Think of how much Jesus would have wanted to teach them that night, knowing that they would no longer be together on earth. All the readings reflect the challenge we all still face: how to “walk the walk” of our faith; how to live as fully as we can our Christian discipleship; how to meet everything from fear to attractive distractions without losing our wholehearted focus on God. The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, reminds us that when Saul, the sworn enemy of Christ, became Paul, the leader of the new Christian communities, the disciples had to overcome their natural fear of him to comprehend the depth of his conversion. Instead of letting these dramatic events tear apart the young Church, the new Christians trusted and flourished.

How can we trust in God’s plan for us, as the early Church did? Are we living lives of Christian discipleship? Have we greeted fellow Christians with love and acceptance, no matter our personal biases and fears?

Lord, help us to trust in your plan, that as a community of faith we may live up to your call.

Planning your Music

Mass Setting: _____________________

Opening Song Suggestions:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise #505
All Are Welcome #575
We Are Your People #581 (this is a great, familiar tune with lots of Alleluias – it’s still the Easter season!)
Gather Us Together #583

Gloria? Yes, every week during the Easter Season.
Psalm: The psalm for this week is Psalm 22. See the arrangement at #189 in the Newman Hymnal, or #27 in the Gather Hymnal. During the Easter season you may also use Psalm 118. See arrangements for Psalm 118 at #327-331 in the Newman Hymnal.

Alleluia (from your chosen Mass setting)
Alleluia Verse:
Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts – Song Suggestions:
I Am the Vine  #726
Center of My Life  #638
You Are Mine  #667
You Are the Voice  #745

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen (from your chosen Mass setting)

Lord’s Prayer (spoken or sung)

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) (from your chosen Mass setting)

Communion Song Suggestions:
All Who Hunger  #128
Now We Remain  #702
We Have Been Told  #127
Amen. El Cuerpo de Cristo  #129

Closing Song Suggestions:
Let All Things Now Living  #626
Dismissal Amen  #585
City of God  #694
We Are Called  #689