

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

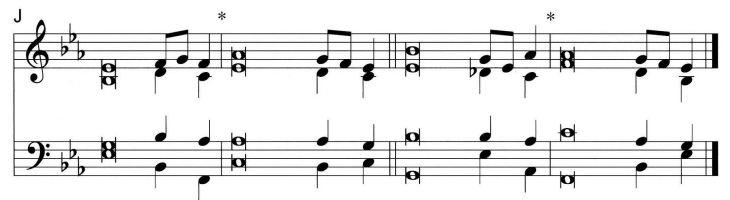
²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Psalm 146**

¹Praise | the Lord!*

Praise the Lord, | O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while
I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes,*
in a son of man, in whom there is
no sal- | vation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns |
to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | Lord his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The Lord lifts up those who
are bowed down;

the Lord loves the | righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow
and the | fatherless,*
but the way of the wicked he
brings to | ruin.
¹⁰The Lord will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion,
to all generations. | Praise the Lord!

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure
spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to
salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the
Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone
rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen
and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones
are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a
holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it
stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to
shame."

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for
those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and
"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as
they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own
possession, that you may proclaim the
excellencies of him who called you out of
darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you
were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you
have received mercy.

John 14:1–14

¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be
troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In
my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not
so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a
place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place
for you, I will come again and will take you to
myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And
you know the way to where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know
where you are going. How can we know the
way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the
truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you
would have known my Father also. From now on
you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the
Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to
him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still
do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me
has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us
the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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 authority,
but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the
Father is in me, or else believe on account of the
works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever
believes in me will also do the works that I do;
and greater works than these will he do, because
I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in
my name, this I will do, that the Father may be
glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in
my name, I will do it."