

**ST STEPHEN
DEACON and MARTYR**

First Reading

2 Chr. 24:17-22

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

They stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord

Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. They abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord; they testified against them, but they would not listen. Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you." But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the Lord. King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, "May the Lord see and avenge!"

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 30(31)

Response: *Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.*

Be a rock of refuge to me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

R.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
As for me, I trust in the Lord:
let me be glad and rejoice in your love.

R.

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
You hide those who trust in you in the shelter
of your presence
from the plotting of men.

R.

Second Reading

Acts 6:8-10;7:54-60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

I see the heavens opened

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
the Lord God shines upon us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mtt. 10:17-22

✠ The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

It is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father

Jesus said to his apostles: "Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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