

# Emboldened to Proclaim

[Acts 7:55-60](#)

## Stephen's Witness

Click [here](#)

## Fridge Magnets

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## Today's Bible Reading

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## Additional Bible Readings

[Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16](#)

[1 Peter 2:2–10](#)

[John 14:1–14](#)

**Open us, loving God.  
When we want to  
close our hearts,  
minds, and even our  
ears from the cries**

**of others, from pleas  
for help and  
proclamations of  
justice, open us.  
Remove every  
stumbling block, and  
enliven us with your  
spirit. Open us, we  
pray. Amen.**

Acts 7: 55–60 When we last read about the early Christian community, they enjoyed the “good- will of all” (Acts 2:47). This regard was short- lived. In Acts 4, we learn that Jewish leaders came to Peter and John “annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead” (Acts 4:2). The leaders ordered Peter and John to cease their witness. Peter and John did not stop, and the number of Jews who believed Jesus was God’s Messiah continued to grow. Again, in Acts 5:17–42, there is an account of the growing tension between these two groups within the Jewish community. As the Body of Christ grew, the disciples appointed elders – individuals to care for the physical needs of the members. One such individual was Stephen.

In Acts 7:55–56, we learn that as Stephen faced his executioners, he “gazed into heaven” and “saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” This is the Easter message embodied: Christ reigns in glory. Those who heard this covered their ears to block out what were, to them, words of blasphemy.