**First New Testament Lesson (NRSV)**  ***Revelation 1:4-8*** **Rhonda Strycharz**

**4**John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, **5**and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood **6**and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**7**Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
    every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him,  
    and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

**8**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Second New Testament Lesson (NRSV) *Acts 5:27-32*****Reverend Averill**

**27**When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, **28**saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” **29**But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. **30**The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. **31**God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32**And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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