

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MAY 19, 2019

First Reading — Acts 14:21-27

²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed. ²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia, and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia; ²⁶ and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had fulfilled. ²⁷ And when they arrived, they gathered the church together and declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Responsorial Psalm PS 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

R. (cf. 1) **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all

and compassionate toward all his works.

R. **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Let them make known your might to the children of Adam,

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,

and your dominion endures through all generations.

R. **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Second Reading — Revelation 21:1-5

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

⁵ And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Gospel Reading — John 13:31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; ³² if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children,

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yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.'³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Acts 14:21-27

1. What was the process God used to build his Kingdom in these early days of the church?

Second Reading — Revelation 21:1-5

2. What do you conclude regarding the statement “Behold, I make all things new”—new heaven?, new earth?, new Jerusalem?, new what? What newness has Christ brought to your life?
3. What aspect of the new heaven and new earth is most appealing to you?

Gospel Reading — John 13:31-35

4. When the disciples looked back on Jesus’ love for Judas, how do you think it clarified and magnified his command to love “as I have loved”?
5. Why do you think Jesus was concerned that people know that these disciples were his?
6. What should we do if our manifestation of love for another person is refused and rejected?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.