

THURSDAY EASTER 4

First Reading: Acts 13: 13-25;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89: 2-3, 21-22, 25, 27;

Gospel Reading: Jn 13: 16-20.

THEME: God's providence

St. Paul made an analysis of the great events of the Old Testament and pointed out God's plans and providence for his people and the salvation of humanity. It is good for each of us to look back at our own lives, recognize, and acknowledge how God's providence has been at work at various points of our lives. Some of our memories may bring back memories of happy experiences; others may be undesirable and painful. Nevertheless, God has been present and leading us individually and communally onto something higher. The challenge before us is how do we respond?

This leads us to the symbolic act which Jesus Christ performed on the night before his crucifixion and death. Jesus urged his followers to serve each other in the same way that he, their Lord and Master, did. Jesus Christ stooped and washed the smelly feet of his disciples. Jesus has given service to others a dignity which is not dependent on statuses society confer on people.

Service is an action that brings about greater happiness. Service in the Gospel is primarily love in action. Through service, love is made visible and concrete. The crucifixion on the cross was the ultimate act of service to Jesus's brothers and sisters: To take on our sins and suffer for us on the cross. It is the greatest love that can be shown. Jesus Christ declared that anyone who accepts a disciple accepts both him and the Father who sent him. There is clear unity from the Father going through the Son and passing through Jesus's disciples to others. Through our hands and feet at work in service we bring about the Kingdom, God's providence, and the Reign of God in the world.

Fr. Sev Kupo