

4th Sunday of Easter
Year C

Reading 1

Citation: Acts, Chap. 13, Verses 14, 43-52
Acts 13: 14, 43-52

Paul confronts opposition from his own co-Jews. Perhaps disappointed he is NOT deterred and insists on the direction of his mission. Be Paul in this proclamation, determined, convinced that God (Jesus) is with you. Judge, but with a measure of mercy because of ignorance.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga
and reached Antioch in Pisidia. (very short pause)

On the sabbath
they entered the synagogue and took their seats. (very short pause)
Many Jews
and worshipers who were converts to Judaism (almost parenthetical)
followed Paul and Barnabas,
who spoke to them
and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God. (very short pause)

On the following sabbath
almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. (very short pause)

When the Jews saw the crowds,
they were filled with jealousy (their anger builds into next lines)
and with violent abuse
contradicted what Paul said. (short pause)

Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly
and said,
"It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, (raise volume a bit)
but since you reject it (almost parenthetical)
and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, (very short pause)
we now turn to the Gentiles. (confident)
For so the Lord has commanded us,

*I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth."* (change voice tone)
(short pause)

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this
and glorified the word of the Lord. (very short pause)
All who were destined for eternal life came to believe,
and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. (short pause)
The Jews, however, (Oh, Oh!)
incited the women of prominence
who were worshipers (parenthetical)
and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, (ignore comma)

Proclamation Format

and expelled them from their territory.

(short pause)

So they shook the dust from their feet
in protest against them,
and went to Iconium.

(parenthetical)

(short pause)

The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

(excited!)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Revelation, Chap. 7, Verses 9, 14b-17
Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17

John "sees" the future of the elect and reports it. He is writing to his community that is under severe persecution, urging them to stay the course. His imagery is theological so you must take the stance of a visionary who sees so clearly and is attempting to convince his followers to keep on keeping on. Be John; feel like John; see like John.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, (he's a gentle narrator)

John,

had a vision of a great multitude,

which no one could count,

from every nation,

race,

people, and tongue.

(short pause)

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,

wearing white robes

and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me,

(very short pause)

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;

they have washed their robes

and made them white

in the blood of the Lamb.

(very short pause)

"For this reason they stand before God's throne

(almost parenthetical; awed tone?)

and worship him day and night in his temple.

" "

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

(gentleness of voice)

They will not hunger or thirst anymore,

nor will the sun or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne

(gentleness of voice)

will shepherd them

and lead them to springs of life-giving water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

(two stresses; get both)

The word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Citation: John, Chap. 10, Verses 27-30
John 10: 27-30

Jesus is conversing more with Himself than with anyone else. John, the theologian among the 4 Gospel-writers is attempting to assure his readers/listeners that they will not be abandoned no matter what happens. He places Jesus in command but with a gentle firmness. Our listeners need to hear that Jesus.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

(authoritative tone)

"My sheep hear my voice;

I know them, and they follow me.

(voice goes up then down)

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.

" "

No one can take them out of my hand.

(very short pause)

My Father,

who has given them to me,

(parenthetical)

is greater than all,

and no one can take them out of the Father's hand.

(very short pause)

The Father and I are one."

(very strong conviction)

The Gospel of the Lord.