

5th Sunday of Easter
Year C

Reading 1

Citation: Acts, Chap. 14, Verses 21-27
Acts 14: 21-27

This is a travelogue report but interspersed with a report of accomplishment as the tiny Church grows. Reflect the feeling of excitement as accomplishment follows accomplishment. There is a momentum here and your listeners need to sense it in the way you tell the story.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to that city
and made a considerable number of disciples, (parenthetical)
they returned to Lystra
and to Iconium
and to Antioch. (very short pause)

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples
and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying,
"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." (short pause)

They appointed elders for them in each church
and, with prayer and fasting, (almost parenthetical)
commended them to the Lord (very positive)
in whom they had put their faith. (almost parenthetical) (short pause)

Then
they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. (very short pause)
After proclaiming the word at Perga (vary pace from line-to-line)
they went down to Attalia."
From there
they sailed to Antioch, "
where they had been commended to the grace of God (voice goes up a bit)
for the work they had now accomplished. (short pause)

And when they arrived,
they called the church together
and reported what God had done with them (rising excitement)
and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. "

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: Revelation, Chap. 21, Verses 1-5a
Revelation 21: 1-5a

St. John is relating what he sees when God's Kingdom comes to the Earth. He describes its impact on the circumstances of human life, not necessarily the physical world. The change is dramatically impressive. Your tone and vocal manner must be insistent on this change.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I,
John,
saw a new heaven and a new earth. (excitement in “new”)

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more. (some regret?)
(voice goes down) (short pause)

I also saw the holy city,
a new Jerusalem, (almost disbelief ?)
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (gentle) (short pause)

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. (raise volume)
He will dwell with them (confident)
and they will be his people (two stresses)
and God himself will always be with them as their God. (voice slowly goes down) (Pause)

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, (tone becomes gentle, loving)
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (very short pause)
for the old order has passed away." (almost parenthetical ?) (short pause)

The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new." (raise volume with each word)

The word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Citation: John, Chap. 13, Verses 31-33a, 34-35
John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

Jesus is bidding his disciples goodbye, but he wants them to behave as He did when he was with them. Hence, he is insistent on His new commandment. Be Jesus as you urge your listeners to take His words to heart.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Judas had left them,
Jesus said,
"Now is the Son of Man glorified,
and God is glorified in him.

If God is glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself,
and God will glorify him at once.

My children,
I will be with you only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another.

As I have loved you,
so you also should love one another.
This is how all will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

(insistence builds)

"

" (pause)

(gentle)

(very short pause)

(commanding; firm)

(voice goes up a bit)

(voice goes down slightly)

(firm; almost each word separately)

The Gospel of the Lord.