

## Reading for Weekday in the Fourth Week of Easter

April 30th 2026

### First reading

Acts 13:13-25

**‘Of David’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus.’**

Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, ‘Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.’ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: ‘Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about four hundred and fifty years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, “I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.” Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, “What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.” ’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 89(88):2-3. 21-22. 25, 27. R cf. 2a**

*I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord.  
or: Alleluia.*

I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.

I have declared your mercy is established for ever;  
your fidelity stands firm as the heavens.

‘I have found my servant David,  
and with my holy oil anointed him.

My hand shall always be with him,  
and my arm shall make him strong.’

‘My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him;  
by my name his might shall be exalted.

He will call out to me, “You are my father,  
my God, the rock of my salvation”.’

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Revelation 1:5ab**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead;  
who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

## **John 13:16-20**

### **‘Whoever receives the one I send receives me.’**

After Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples, he said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, “He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.” I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.’

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

Life-changing events can appear to be disruptive or disastrous. But in the life of Jesus such events were part of God’s plan: “so that you may believe that I AM.” God moves in ways we cannot anticipate in advance. But even when we are not in control of events, this is no reason to despair and give up. On the example of Jesus and of Paul we turn to God in prayer, and realize that ultimately it is God who directs all things. Trusting in this providence, we can be inwardly at peace.

When Jesus told his disciples to welcome children in his name, it was a surprise and a wake-up call. They were arguing about which of them should be in charge and sit at the top table. But seeking social status like this was trivial and had no place the kingdom of God.

What is worthwhile in God’s sight is becoming servants of all, including those to who have little social status. Like the disciples we can easily slide into frivolous values that are not those of the kingdom of God. Only by keeping our focus on Jesus and listening to his word will his values shape how we think and speak and act.