

Reading for Weekday in the Fourth Week of Eastertide

May 1st 2026

First reading

Acts 13:26-33

‘God fulfilled his promise by raising Jesus.’

In those days: When Paul came to Antioch in Pisidia, he spoke in the synagogue: ‘Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognise him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.”’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 2:6-7. 8-9. 10-11. R7

You are my Son.

It is I who have begotten you this day.

or: Alleluia.

‘It is I who have appointed my king
on Sion, my holy mountain.’

I will announce his decree:

the Lord said to me, ‘You are my Son.

It is I who have begotten you this day.

‘Ask of me and I will make nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth as your possession.

With a rod of iron you will rule them;
like a potter’s jar you will shatter them.’

So now, O kings, understand;

take warning, rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear;

exult with trembling, embrace correction.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:1-6

‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Today's gospel is a favourite for funerals and is easy to see why. Jesus tells his disciples that though he is leaving them by death, he is really going back to the God from whom he came. He promises that we too will make the journey after him. He will return to take us with him into the Father's house for which we are destined. Jesus came among us to show the way to the Father. His whole purpose was to bring God to us and us to God.

The many rooms in the Father's house indicate a place of universal hospitality. Heaven is not an elite place for a select few, but an open space for the many, just as Jesus did not come for the sake of the just, but for sinners. He is the Way to the Father for all who follow him. He promised that, when lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself. If we follow him as our Way in this life, we will in the end come to live with him in the Father's house.