

Reading for Weekday in the Second Week of Eastertide

April 17th 2026

First reading

Acts 5:34-42

‘They left, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name.’

In those days: A Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honour by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. And he said to them, ‘Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!’ So they took his advice, and when they had called in the Apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. R1a

*There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
to live in the house of the Lord.
or: Alleluia.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,
to enquire at his temple.

I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4b

Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 6:1-15

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

At that time: Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, 'Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!' Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Shore reflection on the reading for today

The background to the miracle was a hungry crowd out in the countryside, with little or no food between them. Faced by the people's obvious need, his disciples had different responses. Philip the pragmatist calculated that, based on the number of people and the amount of money they had, no solution was possible. Andrew knew that someone in the crowd had a small amount of food – five loaves and two fish – but he dismissed this as an insignificant resource in the circumstances.

Two other responses in the story are noteworthy. First, that of the boy who was willing to hand over the little food he had brought. He showed a most generous instinct by giving what he could, modest though it was. Then there is the action of Jesus himself, who took the food that was offered and, giving thanks to God, somehow fed the large crowd. If we give generously from what we have, the Lord works good through us.