

## Reading for the Memorial of St Asaph

May 5th 2026

### First reading

Acts 14:19-28

**‘They declared to the church all that God had done with them.’**

In those days: Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they remained no little time with the disciples.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 145(144):10-11. 12-13b. 21. R cf. 12a**

*Your friends shall make known, O Lord,  
the glorious splendour of your reign.*

*or: Alleluia.*

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful ones bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
and declare your mighty deeds.

To make known your might to the whole human race,  
and the glorious splendour of your reign.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule endures for all generations.

Let my mouth speak the praise of the Lord;  
let all flesh bless his holy name  
for ever, for ages unending.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Luke 24:46, 26**

Alleluia, alleluia.

It was necessary that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead,  
and so enter into his glory.

Alleluia.

## Gospel

## John 14:27-31a

### 'My peace I give to you.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.'

### Short reflection on the reading for today

When Jesus speaks of going away he is looking toward the cross and the resurrection. After his sacrifice he will be in heaven with the Father and the Spirit. Like the apostle Thomas we sometimes feel: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Although Jesus has gone away we are asked to walk in his footsteps, trusting that his way leads to eternal life.

One way to follow him is a kind of mindfulness, letting us become more aware of the spirit within us. Here is where God's temple is found, the Holy of Holies, with the covenant written in our hearts. Here we can listen to the word that requires our response. Jesus speaks with us and calls us "friends." We truly want to follow his way, making him our compass in life.

Paul and Barnabas moved out to new territory, to live in places that *seemed* outside the range of God's people but were not really so. They needed great courage in order to bring those people to Jesus. As Paul put it, "We must undergo many trials to enter the reign of God." But along with bravery, we are also called to promote peace. This means forgiving others, accepting differences, building bridges. His words remain, "Peace is my gift to you. Do not be afraid."

We have just heard a fine description of the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. Visiting small churches that were struggling in a pagan environment, they put fresh heart into the people, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. In the gospel Jesus does something similar. He urged his disciples who were distressed at the prospect of losing him, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.'

Pope Francis has urge us to be joyful in living by our faith. In this we can depend on the Holy Spirit. Among the names of the Holy Spirit are Comforter and Advocate, so we pray to him, 'Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew.'