

Reading for Weekday in the Fifth Week of Eastertide

May 4th 2026

First reading

Acts 14:5-18

‘We bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God.’

In those days: When an attempt was made in Iconium by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, Paul and Barnabas learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, ‘Stand upright on your feet.’ And he sprang up and began walking. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. But when the Apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.’ Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115(113b):1-2. 3-4. 15-16. R1

Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.

or: Alleluia.

Not to us, O Lord, not to us,
but to your name give the glory,
for your merciful love and fidelity.

Why should the nations say:

‘Where is their God?’

But our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he wills.

Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.

May you be blest by the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The heavens, the heavens belong to the Lord,
but to the children of Adam, he has given the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:26

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things
and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:21-26

‘The Helper, whom the Father will send, he will teach you all things.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.’ Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, ‘Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?’ Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

If we are led by the Holy Spirit, we can be instruments of healing for others. Today’s Scriptures suggest how we can enter into this healing frame of mind.

We must be obedient to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit touches us, reminding us that we are full of potential, meant to be instruments of the healing love of God.

Grace is near at hand, all around us. As St Paul said in Athens: “the living God made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them. ... In bestowing his benefits, he has not hidden himself from us. From the heavens he sends down rain and rich harvests; your spirits he fills with food and delight.”

The message of salvation belongs to everyone. It cannot be hoarded as our private property. Just as the Father’s message came through Jesus so the message we have received must flow through us to inspire new life in others.

We can be instruments of hope.. God’s instruments, even to the extent of healing others from worry and stress, just as Paul and Barnabas brought new energy to the crippled man at Lystra.

The verb “to love” is central to the gospel. It covers our love for Jesus, his love for us, and the Father’s love for the whole of creation. We show our love for Jesus by keeping his word and following his teaching, which is summed up as “love one another as I have loved you.”

He promises to send us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Spirit revives in our minds the outlook of Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to “love one another as I have loved you.” This is a whole vision of the Christian life: God’s relationship with us as Father, Son and Spirit, and our relationship with each other.