

## Reading for Weekday in the Fourth Week of Eastertide

April 28th 2026

### First reading

Acts 11:19-26

**‘They spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.’**

In those days: Those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 87(86):1-3. 4-5. 6-7. R Zechariah 8:23**

*O praise the Lord, all you nations.*

*or: Alleluia.*

Founded by him on the holy mountain,

the Lord loves the gates of Sion,

more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Of you are told glorious things,

you, O city of God!

‘Rahab and Babylon I will count

among those who know me;

of Tyre, Philistia, Ethiopia, it is told,

“There was this one born.”

But of Sion it shall be said,

“Each one was born in her.”’

He, the Most High, will establish her.

In his register of peoples the Lord writes,

‘Here was this one born.’

The singers cry out in chorus,

‘All my wellsprings are in you.’

### Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord,

and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

## Gospel

## John 10:22-30

### 'I and the Father are one.'

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered them, 'I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

### Short reflection on the reading for today

God can brighten our lives if only we take time to be perceptive. This quality characterized Barnabas, a Christian from Cyprus who even in his lifetime was virtually canonized by his friends as "a good man filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith." His name is elsewhere interpreted as "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Originally named Joseph, he was nicknamed *Barnabas* because of his encouraging style and supportive personality.

The openness of Barnabas to God's gifts led him to Tarsus to search for Paul and persuade him to join the church in Antioch. Without this intervention, Paul, who had been virtually banished home to Tarsus, might have been lost in the silence of history. Like Jesus the Good Shepherd, Barnabas went out in search of Paul, and led him back into a community where he transformed the whole missionary energy of the church. We need to wonder how we too might be instrumental in helping others to find their proper role, their potential and the service they can give to the people of God.

Safe in his hands: Jesus refers to breaking in and stealing; and promises that no one will ever steal his followers from him. Because we worry about burglary and fear that others might steal from us or do us harm, we take security precautions to prevent that from happening. But the Lord has such a firm grip on us that no one will ever take us from him against his will. He wants us close to him and keep us from falling away.

But we also need to be proactive as his followers, for he says, "The sheep that belong to me *listen to my voice*." We are meant to heed his words and follow his lead. If we do that, he will do the rest. Our salvation is the Lord's doing more than our own; but we must work with the grace of God and pay heed to his words.