

Reading for the Memorial of St Athanasius

May 2nd 2026

First reading

Acts 13:44-52

‘Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.’

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”’

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. R1a

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
or: Alleluia.*

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations.

He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:31b-32

Alleluia, alleluia.

If you abide in my word,

you are truly my disciples,

and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 14:7-14

‘Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

‘Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

When Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the synagogue and extradited from the territory, what seemed a failure actually served the spread of the Gospel. At least that was how Paul saw it. He quotes from Isaiah: "I have made you a light to the nations, a means of salvation to the ends of the world." We can apply this principle in any crisis or change, trusting that the whole process is under the loving providence of our God.

"We shall be satisfied." – Adults often complain that children are never satisfied. That complaint should probably apply to us all, in a sense. Saint Augustine said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. Philip expressed something of this when he asked Jesus, "Let us see the Father, and then we shall be satisfied." If only he could see the face of God all his longings would be satisfied. Jesus replied, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father." It is he himself who reveals the Father; he is the way to the Father.

We cannot see the face of God in this life, but God has sent us his Son. We cannot see Jesus physically as the apostles saw him, but we can see him with the eyes of faith. We can meet him in his Word, in the Eucharist, in the other Sacraments, in each other. Such "seeing" of the Lord doesn't fully satisfy but it gives a glimpse of what awaits us.