

Reading for Weekday in the Sixth Week of Eastertide

May 11th 2026

First reading

Acts 16:11-15

‘The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.’

Setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptised, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ And she prevailed upon us.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 149:1-2. 3-4. 5-6a, 9b. R4a

The Lord takes delight in his people.

or: Alleluia.

Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;
let Zion’s children exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing,
and make music with timbrel and lyre.
For the Lord takes delight in his people;
he adorns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful exult in glory,
and rejoice as they take their rest.
Let the praise of God be in their mouths
This is an honour for all his faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:26b, 27a

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord,
and you also will bear witness.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 15:26-16:4a

‘The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

‘I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Three points leap out from today's readings.

1. "The Lord takes delight in his people" (as the responsorial Psalm today reminds us). We are graciously loved through life, by God's fatherly good-will.
2. Secondly, Jesus promises us that at moments of special need we can rely on the great "Helper," the Paraclete or Advocate, that is the Holy Spirit.
3. Thirdly, we see in the interaction of Paul and Lydia how God blesses and helps us through one another. We are meant to be inter-dependent, to form a community of mutual love, care and assistance. Appreciating what others do for us, we are led by a kind of *noblesse oblige* to find ways of reciprocating, in return.

Lydia offered kindly hospitality to Paul. 'If you really think me a true believer, come and stay with us;' and she would not take no for an answer! Having received the gift of the gospel from Paul, she was moved to offer the gift of hospitality in return. After being graced by the Lord through Paul, she graced Paul and his companions by her offer of a place to stay. We have all been graced in various ways by the Lord. The first reading suggests that the appropriate response to the experience of being graced is to grace others in return. Having received from the Lord, we give from what we have received. St John at the beginning of his gospel declares that from the Lord's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Because of that, we look for ways to grace others as we have been graced, to bless others as we have been blessed. Lydia knew what that meant for her – showing hospitality to Paul. The Lord will make clear how, concretely, we can give from what we have received.