

Reading for Weekday in the Fifth Week of Eastertide

May 8th 2026

First reading

Acts 15:22-31

‘It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements.’

In those days: It seemed good to the Apostles and the elders, with the whole Church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers and sisters, with the following letter: ‘The brothers, both the Apostles and the elders, to the brothers and sisters who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.’

So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 57(56):8-9. 10-12. R10a

I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples.

or: Alleluia.

My heart is ready, O God;

my heart is ready.

I will sing, I will sing your praise.

Awake, my soul!

Awake, O lyre and harp!

I will awake the dawn.

I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples,

among the nations sing psalms to you,

for your mercy reaches to the heavens,

and your truth to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

may your glory shine on all the earth!

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:15b

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have called you friends, says the Lord,

for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 15:12-17

‘These things I command you, so that you will love one another.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

In the Gospel, we see how Jesus calls his disciples *friends*, “I shall not call you servants any more.. I call you friends.” He makes it clear that each of them has been specially chosen: “You did not choose me, no, I chose you.”

It was his initiative that began this friendship with his followers; he chose to befriend them just as he chose each of us. And he tells us what is most personal to him, his relationship with the Father. His ultimate act of friendship was emptying himself on our behalf, laying down his life for us. He has given his all, but if this radical friendship is to bear fruit, we also need to do our part, to choose him as he has chosen us. To remain in his friendship we must love one another as he has loved us, befriending others as he has befriended us.