

.A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

First reading

Acts 13:14, 43b-52

‘Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.’

In those days: Paul and Barnabas

went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.

And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas,

who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

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.

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Serve the LORD with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Know that he, the LORD, is God.

He made us; we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

I, John, looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more;
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING

At that time: Jesus said,

‘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.’

The Gospel of The Lord

THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

The new Pope looked surprised and there was no sense of a personal triumph, he thanked the Cardinals for their trust and they had each promised their loyalty. The voting is unknown to us but on the 4th vote he must have had enormous respect to gain 90 out of 133 votes. A missionary in Peru and an experienced Vatican leader of a department. I hope he enjoys the office he has been voted into and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The church that he leads shepherds the people of God with a strength of teaching guided by Scripture, our tradition and the teaching of the Pope in agreement with the Bishops of the Church. Pope Francis expressed his hope in Synodality a careful listening to and from bishops and people.

Our faith is developed from a careful study of what Jesus said and did in relationship with the Father. It has developed in many ways: in Our dogma, the expressed belief in the divine plan of creation, fulfilment and bringing time to an end. In Jesus' work of saving us from this world alone and bringing us to an eternal life of justice peace and joy.

Our belief in a good life of prayer and activity, shared prayers at mass especially and a united belief in what we should do and what we should avoid.

There are always challenges or as St. Theresea of Calcutta put it: opportunities to bring about God's love in the world. As Cardinal Bernadin of Chicago put it, the sanctity of life is a personal respect value, is from the moment of conception to a natural end. We have a duty of care for one another and as Pope Benedict put it; an intergenerational justice to preserve the benefits of this planet for future generations.

Above all he knows our final result is certain: the unlimited Love of God over all things,

