

Monday 04 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 14:5-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

With the connivance of the authorities a move was made by pagans as well as Jews to make attacks on Paul and Barnabas and to stone them. When the apostles came to hear of this, they went off for safety to Lycaonia where, in the towns of Lystra and Derbe and in the surrounding country, they preached the Good News.

A man sat there who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth; and as he listened to Paul preaching, he managed to catch his eye. Seeing that the man had the faith to be cured, Paul said in a loud voice, 'Get to your feet – stand up,' and the cripple jumped up and began to walk.

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the language of Lycaonia, 'These people are gods who have come down to us disguised as men.' They addressed Barnabas as Zeus, and since Paul was the principal speaker, they called him Hermes. The priests of Zeus-outside-the-Gate, proposing that all the people should offer sacrifice with them, brought garlanded oxen to the gates. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening, they tore their clothes, and rushed into the crowd, shouting, 'Friends, what do you think you are doing? We are only human beings like you. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the living God who made heaven and earth and the sea and all that these hold. In the past he allowed each nation to go its own way; but even then, he did not leave you without evidence of himself in the good things he does for you: he sends you rain from heaven; he makes your crops grow when they should, he gives you food and makes you happy.' Even this speech, however, was scarcely enough to stop the crowd offering them sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 113B:1-4. 15-16. R. v.1

(R.) Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.

1. Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give the glory for the sake of your love and your truth, lest the heathen say: 'Where is their God?' (R.)

2. Our God he is in the heavens; he does whatever he wills. Their idols are silver and gold,

the work of human hands. (R.)

3. May you be blessed by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. The heavens belong to the Lord but the earth he has given to men. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation John 14:26

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and remind you of all I have said to you.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:21-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Judas – this was not Judas Iscariot – said to him, 'Lord, what is all this about? Do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?' Jesus replied:

'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

Tuesday 05 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 14:19-28

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and turned the people against the apostles. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the town, thinking he was dead. The disciples came crowding round him but, as they did so, he stood up and went back to the town. The next day he and Barnabas went off to Derbe.

Having preached the Good News in that town and made a considerable number of disciples, they went back though Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga, they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:10-13. 21. R. see v.12

(R.) Your friends tell the glory of your kingship, Lord.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare you mighty, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
2. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)
3. Let me speak the praise of the Lord,
let all mankind bless his holy name
for ever, for ages unending. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:46. 26

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead, and so enter into his glory.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 14:27-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jesus said to his disciples:

'Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me, you would have been glad to know that I am going to the father,
for the father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe. I shall not talk with you any longer,
because the prince of this world is on his way.

He has no power over me, but the world must be brought to know that I love the Father
and that I am doing exactly what the father told me.'

Wednesday 06 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 15:1-6

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

All the members of the church saw them off, and as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria they told how the pagans had been converted, and this news was received with the greatest satisfaction by the brothers. When they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church and by the apostles and elders, and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

But certain members of the Pharisees' party who had become believers objected, insisting that the pagans should be circumcised and instructed to keep the Law of Moses. The apostles and elders met to look into the matter.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. (R.)
3. For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Thursday 07 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 15:7-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

After the discussion had gone on a long time, Peter stood up and addressed the apostles and elders.

'My brothers,' he said 'you know perfectly well that in the early days God made his choice among you: the pagans were to learn the Good News from me and so become believers. In fact, God, who can read everyone's heart, showed his approval of them by giving the Holy Spirit to them just as he had to us. God made no distinction between them and us, since he purified their hearts by faith. It would only provoke God's anger now, surely, if you imposed on the disciples the very burden that neither we nor our ancestors were strong enough to support? Remember, we believe that we are saved in the same way as they are: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.'

This silenced the entire assembly, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing all the signs and wonders God had worked through them among the pagans.

When they had finished it was James who spoke. 'My brothers,' he said 'listen to me. Simeon has described how God first arranged to enlist a people for his name out of the pagans. This is entirely in harmony with the words of the prophets, since the scriptures say:

After that I shall return and rebuild the fallen House of David;
I shall rebuild it from its ruins and restore it.

Then the rest of mankind, all the pagans who are consecrated to my name,
will look for the Lord, says the Lord who made this known so long ago.

'I rule, then, that instead of making things more difficult for pagans who turn to God, we send them a letter telling them merely to abstain from anything polluted by idols, from fornication, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For Moses has always had his preachers in every town, and is read aloud in the synagogues every sabbath.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3. 10. R. cf. v.3

(R.) Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
3. and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:9-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the father has loved me,
so, I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.'

Friday 08 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 15:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

‘The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.’

The party left and went down to Antioch, where they summoned the whole community and delivered the letter. The community read it and were delighted with the encouragement it gave them.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 56:8-12. R. v.10

(R.) I will praise you among the nations, O Lord.

1. My heart is ready, O God,
my heart is ready.
I will sing, I will sing your praise.
Awake my soul,
awake lyre and harp,
I will awake the dawn. (R.)
2. I will thank you Lord among the peoples,
praise you among the nations;
for your love reaches to the heavens
and your truth to the skies.
O God, arise above the heavens;
may your glory shine on earth! (R.)

Gospel Acclamation John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I call you my friends, says the Lord, for I have made known to you all that the father has told me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel John 15:12-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘This is my commandment: love one another,
as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends,
if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know his master’s business;
I call you friends, because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my father. You did not choose me,
no, I chose you; and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last;
and then the father will give you anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you is to love one another.’

Saturday 09 May 2026 of the fifth week of Easter

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 16:1-10

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

From Cilicia Paul went to Derbe, and then to Lystra. Here there was a disciple called Timothy, whose mother was a Jewess who had become a believer; but his father was a Greek. The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of Timothy, and Paul, who wanted to have him as a travelling companion, had him circumcised. This was on account of the Jews in the locality where everyone knew his father was a Greek.

As they visited one town after another, they passed on the decision reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, with instructions to respect them.

So, the churches grew strong in faith, as well as growing daily in numbers.

They travelled through Phrygia and the Galatian country, having been told by the Holy Spirit not to preach the word in Asia. When they reached the frontier of Mysia, they thought to cross it into Bithynia, but as the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them, they went through Mysia and came down to Troas.

One night Paul had a vision: a Macedonian appeared and appealed to him in these words, 'Come across to Macedonia and help us.' Once he had seen this vision, we lost no time in arranging a passage to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the Good News.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
3. we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Colossians 3:1

Alleluia, alleluia!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:18-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If the world hates you,
remember that it hated me before you.
If you belonged to the world,
the world would love you as its own;
but because you do not belong to the world,
because my choice withdrew you from the world,
therefore, the world hates you.
Remember the words I said to you:
A servant is not greater than his master.
If they persecuted me,
they will persecute you too;
if they kept my word,
they will keep yours as well.
But it will be on my account that they will do all this,
because they do not know the one who sent me.'