

Reflection for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

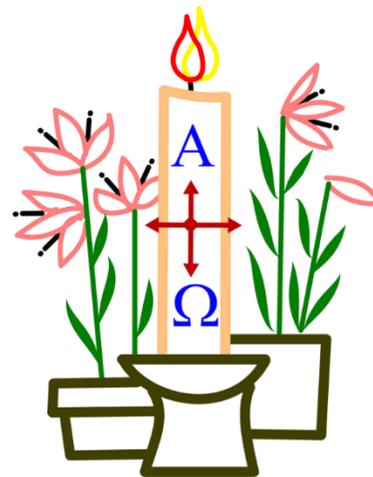
May 15, 2022

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

Psalm: 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35



Written by: Sister Anne Zita Crudden, GNSH

In today's first reading, we hear of Paul and Barnabas calling the Church together. Throughout their many travels, they reported what God had done with them and how the door of faith had been opened to the Gentiles. *"They strengthened the spirits of the disciples, and exhorted them to persevere in the faith."* They also cautioned each Church that it would not be easy, since there would be many hardships. Furthermore, they appointed elders for each church to assist in spreading the Good News. Their openness and support with each group indicated mutual respect. Here, we witness the revered disciples of Jesus sharing the amazing news that even those who were not of the Jewish race were welcome.

How special that announcement is for us today!

Today's Responsorial Psalm proclaims that we *"...will praise God's name for ever..."* We acknowledge God's might, as well as God's goodness and mercy.

Our second reading today from the Book of Revelation reminds us that, *"God's dwelling is with the human race"...*and God, *"...will always be with them."* In these days of conflict and acts of violence, we are still promised that, *"...there shall be no more death or mourning... for the old order has passed away."* John's vision shows that, *"... all things will be made new."*

Today's Gospel takes us back to the scene of the Last Supper. As Judas leaves to begin his desperate act of betrayal, Jesus assures His remaining disciples of His love for them. Moreover, Jesus gives them-and us- a new commandment: *to love one another*. This love will show others that they/we belong to Him. Jesus speaks plainly. He tells them that He will be leaving them soon. Moreover, He announces that God is glorified in Him, and that He will be glorified by God.

Reflect:

- ♥ How do I practice this new commandment of love for one another in my words and actions?
- ♥ What can I do to make today's church more welcoming for all people?