

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Instruments of Salvation

God our Light,  
your kindness endures forever.  
You know us  
and grant us eternal life.  
Help us remain faithful to you.  
When our sights waver  
from being set on you,  
guide us back

to serve you with gladness.  
When we are persecuted,  
help us respond as instruments  
of salvation:  
give us strength to shake the dust  
from our feet  
and continue spreading your Word.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, May 11, 2025**  
**Shake the Dust from Your Feet**



*Today's readings: Acts 13:14, 43–52; Psalm 100:1–2, 3, 5; Revelation 7:9, 14b–17; John 10:27–30.* Today, we hear that Paul and Barnabas reach Antioch. They proclaimed the Word of the Lord and exhorted many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism “to remain faithful to the grace of God.” A week later, the city gathers to hear the word of the Lord. Upon seeing the massive crowds gathered to listen to Paul and Barnabas, the Jews are “filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.”

But Paul and Barnabas continue to speak out boldly. They turn to the Gentiles, who are delighted to know that they, too, are worthy of eternal life. The Jews continue to

persecute Paul and Barnabas “and expelled them from their territory.” Paul and Barnabas shake the dust from their feet and resume their journey: filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, their mission to take the word of the Lord to the ends of the earth continues.

Paul and Barnabas teach an important lesson: despite being persecuted, they remain faithful to their call to share the new life that can be found in Christ’s resurrection. They are filled with the Spirit and, thus, are strengthened to continue their mission. Where do you get your strength when you are feeling discouraged? How can you embrace the resurrection of our Lord and share that Good News with others?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 12 Athirst Is My Soul

We yearn to be in relationship with God. In today's responsorial psalm, words are put to our desire: "As the hind longs for the running waters, / so my soul longs for you, O God. / Athirst is my soul for God." As you enter this week, consider how you search for God in your day-to-day life. When and how shall you go and behold the face of God? When the shepherd calls you by name and leads you, how do you respond? *Today's readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3, 4; John 10:1–10.*

### Tuesday, May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

On the optional Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, we remember that the Virgin Mary appeared to three impoverished shepherd children in Portugal in 1917, toward the end of the First World War. She asked them to pray for the conversion of sinners and for the end to the war. She appeared several other times, calling for penitence and prayers for peace. Today, pray the Rosary and say a prayer for peace in our world. *Today's readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

### Wednesday, May 14 Feast of St. Matthias

After the ascension of Jesus, the first act of the apostles was to replace Judas as one of the twelve. Two men were suggested, and after praying about it in community, Matthias was chosen (Acts 1:21–26). Much like the other apostles (and like us, too), Matthias was chosen for what he would become as a follower of Christ. How can you enter into being a witness to the resurrection of the Lord? How has your community invited you to embrace your God-given gifts? *Today's readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm; John 15:9–17.*

### Thursday, May 15 St. Isidore the Farmer

When St. Isidore was young, he was destined to work on a wealthy landowner's farm. He was known to pray before and while he worked. To celebrate his feast today, say a prayer on your way to work: pray in gratitude for those who work on farms and cultivate the crops required to sustain us. Consider starting a new habit of praying before work every day, just as St. Isidore did. *Today's readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25 and 27; John 13:16–20.*

### Friday, May 16 The Way, the Truth, the Life

Jesus tells the disciples that he is "the way and the truth and the life." Look for opportunities for Eucharistic adoration at a parish near you. Commit to praying before the Eucharist at least once in the coming week. While you are at Eucharistic adoration, look back on this Easter season. How have you responded to the joy of the resurrection? Say a prayer reflecting on the ways you and the resurrected Lord have encountered one another. *Today's readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11ab; John 14:1–6.*

### Saturday, May 17 Doing the Lord's Work

Jesus says that whoever believes in him will do the works that he does. How have you dedicated yourself to healing and serving others this Easter season? Do you realize your baptismal call is to continue the Lord's work in the world? When you have fallen short on healing and serving others during Easter Time, make a commitment to visit the infirmed, the elderly, or someone who is homebound next week. *Today's readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14.*