

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season

Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43–52 † Revelation 7:9, 14b–17 † John 10:27–30



Reflection by: Sister Barbara A. Moore, OP

Everyone is Invited

It seems to me that it was Paul and Barnabas' intent all along to preach the message of Jesus to the Gentiles. Arriving at Antioch they took their seats in the temple. It was the Sabbath, so the temple was crowded. They praised the Jews for their faithfulness. When they began to preach about Jesus, a heated dispute arose. Paul reminded the Jews of their rejection of Jesus. That did not go well! The following debate further angered the Jews who incited the Temple elites to expel them. Paul and Barnabas then turned their attention to the Gentiles who were "excited and glorified the word of the Lord." It was God's will that Paul and Barnabas be a "light" also to the Gentiles! Everyone is invited.

In our second reading from the Book of Revelation, John visions a multitude from every "nation, race, people and tongue" that stands before the throne wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands." Everyone is invited.

At a recent symposium on social justice, I attended the lectures offered by our university's sociology department. Among other insights gained that day, one stands out. Race is a social construct. We, today, as a human family still struggle with inclusion and the universality of the human race.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally acknowledged as Good Shepherd Sunday. In John 11, Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd portraying an innate goodness toward all. As he stands at the sheep gate, all who choose to pass through are welcome. Everyone is invited.