

BE STILL

Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Risen Lord today.

Listen or Sing:

Regina Caeli

via: <https://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Summit#music>

Regina caeli, laetare, allelúia: qui-a quem me-ru-í-sti portare, allelúia, Resurrexit, sicut dixit, allelúia. Ora pro nobis Deum, allelúia.

(English)

O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia: For he whom you have humbly borne for us, alleluia, Has arisen, as he promised, alleluia, Offer now our prayer to God, alleluia.

Gathering Prayer:

Christ yesterday and today
The beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega
all time belongs to him
and all the ages
to him be glory and power
through every age forever, Amen.
Alleluia.

THIS WEEK

- Wednesday 2 May: St Athanasius (Memorial)
- Thursday 3 May: Sts Philip and James (feast)

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (9: 26-31)

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

Re-read the gospel.

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us.

The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect:

As we continue our Easter season journey we are accompanied by the Acts of the Apostles. Each day the first reading invites us into the world of these earliest Christians as they endeavoured to make sense of how to live as followers of Jesus in their context. These are the stories of the struggles of a fledgling community being tested with questions about inclusion and authenticity of message. And there are times when this came at great cost to the leaders.

Perhaps the invitation before us this week is to reflect on what our contemporary communities look like. Who are our current disciples? How peaceful are our communities?

RESPOND

Pray:

God, as we journey in this Easter Season, bless us with wisdom and hope. Encourage us to keep our eyes fixed on you as we continue in our efforts to live as pilgrim people. Amen.