

DAY 23: SATURDAY OF EASTER WEEK

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Father of everlasting mercy
we entrust all who are dear to us
to your never-failing love and care
both for this life and the life to come
knowing that you are doing for them
things beyond all that we can ask or think;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Readings: Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1-4, 22-29; Mark 16:9-15

Reflection: The Book of Acts continues with the trial of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Council of Jewish Elders). After listening to Peter and John, they were sent out as the Elders conferred amongst themselves. After they reached a decision they called them in and warned Peter and John not to preach about Christ again but they reply by saying that they cannot promise this – so strong is their belief in Christ now. We also see that the authorities are once again afraid of public opinion which is in favour of the apostles and their message. The text from St Mark's gospel tells us of the meeting of Christ with his disciples. They have not accepted the word of those who said they had seen the risen Lord and he rebukes them for their lack of faith. The gospel ends with the great mandate to *"Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News."* The commitment of Peter and John in the first reading shows that they have taken this mandate to heart and are actively carrying it out. This mandate is also given to each of us as baptised children of God to carry on no matter where we find ourselves in life.

Concluding Prayers

Almighty God
you have promised to hear the prayers
of those who ask in your Son's name:
we pray that what we have asked faithfully
we may obtain effectually;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

May the Lord bless us and watch over us.

May the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

May the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen