

Sunday Readings Reflections of 5/1/2016

Reading 1 [Acts 15:1-2, 22-29](#)

Perhaps you have seen it coming. In recent weeks, our readings from the Acts of the Apostles have shown a growing split between Jews and Gentiles in the early Christian community. Many Jewish Christians in Jerusalem felt that the Gentile believers should be required to fulfill the law of Moses. So Paul and Barnabas went on a peacemaking mission to Jerusalem, where they met with Peter and the others. Together they chose a delegation to return to Antioch with a "peace treaty" letter. In it they assured all Gentiles that the Holy Spirit approved of them as members of the Church. They would not be required to abide by the Mosaic Law.

Reading 2 [Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23](#)

Christian artists would never run out of symbols if they went looking in the Book of Revelation. Our reading today is filled with symbols that gleam and sparkle. The author envisions the gathering of all Christ's faithful ones in the heavenly Jerusalem. It shines like a diamond; its unsurpassed beauty flows from those who have persevered in faith. Its foundation stones are beautifully inscribed with the names of the apostles. And, most magnificent of all, God is the temple in this shining city. And Jesus is the lamp glowing over all.

Gospel [John 14:23-29](#)

In the gospel today, Jesus continues to speak about love. Those who love will experience God's love in their lives and the gift of peace that only Christ can give. Jesus also promises to send the Paraclete, or the Comforter, to his disciples. The Paraclete is the Holy Spirit, who will guide the Church for all time. Jesus' followers will not be left on their own.