

April 25, 2010

The 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 13: 14, 43 – 52

Revelation 7: 9, 14b – 17

John 10: 27 – 30

The second reading from Revelation 7: 9, 14b – 17 is about grace in times of distress. In verse 9 - grace is given to those from many nations who are chosen and saved by God. This reading ends (verses 14b – 17) with a description of the joy for those who have faithfully served and suffered with Jesus Christ. This Lamb will shepherd, lead, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The image here is of many people from many nations now standing before God, all formerly of a low and undesirable state and who suffered greatly. While there are many ways to heaven – it seems that trials are one of them. They alone had washed their robes and made them white in the lamb (vs. 14).

The expression of equality before God is universal. However, the poor, widow, orphan, stranger and those with no voice are now standing before God waving palm branches and wearing white robes – the perfect metaphor for those who believe. They are standing next to you and me! God sees each of us in the same way. No one standing before God has any more power – authority – or presence than anyone else. Catholic Social Justice teaching expresses this solidarity of the human person before God.

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