**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(English to voice while another person signs)

the first lesson is acts 13:15, 26-33

now paul with a group of his friends traveled to the town of pisidian antioch. on the holy worship day they went to the jewish church.

15. after the reading of the lesson from the law and the prophets, the church rulers sent their servants to say: "men, brothers, do you have any word which you can inform the people and encourage them? if so, now speak it!" .... [ paul stood to say: ]

26. "men, brothers of the family of abraham, his sons, and any others among you who truly respect god... [ understand this ]! we inform you the same word about the savior of which god informed us!

27. "before, those people living in jerusalem and their rulers, all did not recognize [ the importance of ] that man, [ jesus ]! every [ saturday ], the holy worship day, they read the [ words ] which the various different prophetic voices said and as the prophets said, they judged him

28. "and punished him with death. they had no proof but anyway they asked pilate to destroy him.

29. "they did against him everything that the scripture writings said that they would do against him. jesus [ died ], hanging on the wooden [ cross ], and then [ men ] took him and laid him in a tomb, dead.

30. "yes, but god raised him again!

31. "from then on he appeared on many occasions to those people, the same people who before had traveled with him from the area of galilee to jerusalem. now they are his witnesses, informing people all over of

32. "that good story. it happened just as god promised our many fathers saying that it would happen. that same promise did happen as our preaching informs you!

33. "now we are their children and jesus, the one god raised again, is his promise fulfilled to us. it is just as psalm two says: 'you are my true son! today, i have begotten you!'"

the second lesson is revelation 7:9-17

john continues to explain his vision:

9. after i saw those recent things, wow look... there is a great group, so many that no one could count them! wow! the group included people of every country, every tribe, every various group of people, and people of every language! they all stood before the throne and before the lamb [ jesus ]! he clothed them all with white robes and they waved palms in their hands!

10. with their loud voices, they said: "our god who sits on the throne and the lamb alone could save us!"

11. all the angels stood around the throne. also, before the throne were the elders and the four living things [ one on each side around the throne ]. they worshiped god, bowing with their faces to the ground,

12. saying: "amen! give all praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength to our god forever and ever. amen!"

13. now one of the elders answered saying: "who are these whom god clothed with white robes? from where did they come?"

14. i said to him: "my lord, you know!" he said to me: "after enduring that terrible persecution, they came here! they washed their robes... yes, they washed their robes white in the blood of the lamb, wow!

15. "now they are there in god's temple, serving him all day and all night. they are before god's throne and the one who sits on the throne covers them with his tent!

16. "from now on, they will never hunger or thirst again! the sun or anything hot will never shine on them again!

17. "truly, the lamb at the center of the throne, will shepherd them. he will lead them to drink that water which springs forth to life! wow! and yes, god will wipe every tear from their eyes!"

the holy gospel lesson is john 10:22-30

22. now the time was winter. it was a celebration day in jerusalem, remembering the day when the people completed the temple building and blessed it.

23. jesus walked in the temple area called solomon's porch.

24. now those jews gathered around him and said to him: "we have waited and waited for your clear answer... are you the christ? when will you clearly tell us?"

25. jesus answered them: "i have told you, but you don't believe me! the miracle works which i do in my father's name, they themselves clearly tell you, but you don't believe at all

26. "because, no, you do not belong to my sheep!

27. "those sheep, my sheep, attend my voice. i know them and, yes, they follow me!

28. "i give them eternal life and they will never suffer the death of hell! i hold them in my hand and no one can take them out, no!

29. "those [ sheep ] are all those that my father has given me! he is the most exalted one! they are in my father's hand, and no one can take them out!

30. "i and the father are one!"