

The Word in the World Fourth Week of Easter Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:15 AM
Acts 12:24—13:5a; **Jn 12:44-50** (And as long as time continues this Word will be speaking, revealing, embracing. And the fate of the world is now in the hands of the respondents.)

“So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”

We see here in the Fourth Gospel a very beautifully developed theology, if you will, of the **unity of the Father and the Son, the unity of the Speaker and the Word**: what you hear me say is really from the Father; he is the speaker. Jesus is the Word as it were embodied. This is the idea of the incarnation, in which if you see Jesus, you see the Father, and in such a way that something happens; willy-nilly, one way or the other, something happens in the encounter with Christ because **the encounter with Christ is really the encounter with the Father**. It is already presenting the life of the Trinity. **It’s also an encounter with the Holy Spirit**, naturally. **And in this encounter we are free to accept, to open ourselves to the light that he is or to shut ourselves**. And this freedom is preserved to the end of time.

But this freedom could be our undoing as well if we do not listen and we do not follow and we do not open our eyes and our hearts to the light. But Jesus says if someone rejects me or does not listen to me, I do not condemn him. I did not come for that. Jesus did not come into the world in any way to condemn the world. However, there are consequences to his speaking and his very word is actually a kind of judgment. **Those who accept the word are saved, vivified, born again into eternal life. Those who reject the word, the word will judge them**. So what he is describing is a process that will go on inexorably because he has come.

Now persecutions will come trying to wipe out the influence of Christ. They won’t work; they can’t. **The Word of God has come and the Word of God stays and continues through the body of Christ**, through the brotherhood and the sisterhood of believers, his arms, his feet, his eyes, his mouth, these all work to continue this work of being the Word of God in the world. **And as long as time continues this Word will be speaking, revealing, embracing. And the fate of the world is now in the hands of the respondents**. How shall that go? That’s the question we decide.