

livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

Reading 1

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

R. (cf. 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or:

R. Alleluia.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading II

1 Jn 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and
knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God,
for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

not that we have loved God, but that he loved
us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Gospel
Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- Peter meeting Cornelius is an incredibly important moment in the early Church. It sets in motion the whole christian mission to non-jews - to the untouchables, the pagans, the 'greeks'. God wants to include everyone. Who do I consider an 'outsider' to the Church? Why? How could I, my family, my church be more inclusive?
- Acts 10 is a further amazing incident where the Holy Spirit speaks in dreams and visions to inspire and move the Church and disciples into God's will. Both Peter and Cornelius are spoken to in prayer. What have you heard in prayer and life lately? Have you been obedient in livingtheword? What are some obstacles you have encountered?
- John repeats the word love 9 times in his letter and 9 times in the Gospel today. John pushes the idea that love actually 'looks like something': Jesus and his example of laying down his life. In John's community they were fighting with gnostics who didn't think christian behaviour was important. Consider one person in your life to love like Christ, with total and unconditional love. Imagine doing this. What will it look like today in action?
- God wants his disciples to 'bear fruit' and encourages us to ask so that glory can be reflected upon God. What is your attitude toward intercessory prayer? Ask or text your friends what they need and pray specifically for their needs. Don't be afraid to ask for signs. He gives plenty in the Acts of the Apostles!
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?