



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”
⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.
⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’
⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’
⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’
¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹“At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.
¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’
¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.
¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ▶

FIRST READING *Caesarea = sez-uh-REE-uh*

The reader will do well to help the assembly to hear the tension between the Jewish believers and Peter, whose vision had led him to the Gentiles. Peter has set out on a startlingly new course and is increasingly convinced that this direction is the will of God. He is resolute. The reading must sound like that. Allow the reading to move toward its natural climax at the conclusion in verse 18.

¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift
that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,
who was I that I could hinder God?"

¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced.
And they praised God, saying,
"Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

PSALMODY: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

 "See, the home of God is among mortals.

 He will dwell with them as their God;

 they will be his peoples,

 and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

 Death will be no more;

 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

 for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said,

 "See, I am making all things new."

 Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶Then he said to me, "It is done!

 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

 To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING

(Remember: the name of the Book is Revelation. There is no "s" on the end.)

Another vision, not unlike St. Peter's vision in the previous reading. This vision of John is a vision of hope, of "all things new" for all the world. It demands a sense of awe, wonder, and joy!

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said,
“Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.

³²If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer.
You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,
‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Judas has left the room and Jesus begins his long goodbye. The tone is an instructive one saturated with love for his disciples. Help the hearers sense that these words are meant for them as well.