

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48** The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit  
(*NIRV*)

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his message. <sup>45</sup> The Jewish believers who had come from Joppa with Peter were amazed that God had poured out His gift of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in strange tongues and praising God's greatness. Peter spoke up: <sup>47</sup> "These people have received the Holy Spirit, just as we also did. Can anyone, then, stop them from being baptised with water?" <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for a few days.

**PSALM: Psalm 98** (*NKJV*)

<sup>1</sup> Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvellous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. <sup>4</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. <sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm, <sup>6</sup> with trumpets and the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King. <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it; <sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together <sup>9</sup> before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-8** Faith gives us victory over the world  
(CEB)

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. <sup>3</sup> This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, <sup>4</sup> because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son? <sup>6</sup> This is the One who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the One who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> The three are testifying—<sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and the three are united in agreement.

**GOSPEL: John 15:9-17** Jesus calls us His friends (DLNT)

[Jesus said]: <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father loved Me, I also loved you. Abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love— just as I have kept the commandments of My Father and am abiding in His love. <sup>11</sup> "I have spoken these things to you in order that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be made full. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment: that you be loving one another just as I loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this: that one lay-down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you are doing the things which I command you. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I made-known to you everything which I heard from My Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you, in order that you may go and bear fruit and your fruit may remain, in order that He may give you whatever thing you ask the Father in My name. <sup>17</sup> I am commanding these things to you so-that you will love one another.