

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18 Peter explains how God's salvation is also for Gentiles *(ISV)*

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the Word of God. ² But when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those who emphasised circumcision disagreed with him. ³ They said, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain to them point by point what had happened. He said, ⁵ "I was in the town of Joppa praying when in a trance I saw a vision: Something like a large linen sheet descended down from heaven, lowered by its four corners, and it came right down to me. ⁶ When I examined it closely, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild animals, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter! Kill something and eat it.' ⁸ But I replied, 'Absolutely not, Lord, for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth!' ⁹ Then the voice from heaven answered a second time, 'You must stop calling common what God has made clean!' ¹⁰ This happened three times. Then everything was pulled back up to heaven. ¹¹ "At that very moment three men arrived at the house where we were staying. They had been sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without hesitating. These six brothers went with me, too, and we entered the house of the man from Caesarea. ¹³ Then he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his home and saying, 'Send messengers to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will discuss with you how you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ "When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as He was first given to us. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ Now if God gave them the same gift that He gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, who was I to try to stop God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they calmed down, and praised God by saying, "So God has given repentance that leads to life even to gentiles."

PSALM: Psalm 148 *(NKJV)*

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! ² Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! ³ Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light! ⁴ Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵ Let them praise the name

of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. ⁶ He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; ⁸ fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word; ⁹ mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; ¹⁰ Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying birds; ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; ¹² both young men and maidens; old men and children. ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. ¹⁴ And He has exalted the dominion of His people, the praise of all His saints— of the children of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6 God will wipe away all tears *(NIV)*

¹ Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶ 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 without cost from the spring of the water of life.’

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35 The new commandment: love one another *(NKJV)*

³¹ So, when he [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. ³³ Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”