

**5-15-22**

**Opening Hymn** Praise, my soul, the King of heaven #410

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing:

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in this faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face; sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

### **The Collect**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lessons

*Introduction: Today's lesson from Acts is about the conversion and baptism of the first Gentile family. The first century society was divided between people of the Jewish faith, referred to as "the circumcised," and the Gentiles who are called "uncircumcised". Hear how Peter followed the Holy Spirit to a place he never thought he would be and broke down the wall between the two groups.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles      *Acts 11:1-18*

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had welcomed the word of God. When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him. They accused him, "You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!"

Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. "I was in the city of Joppa praying when I had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. As I stared at it, wondering what it was, I saw four-legged animals — including wild beasts — as well as reptiles and wild birds. I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!' I responded, 'Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' The voice from heaven spoke a second time, 'Never consider unclean what God has made pure.'

This happened three times, then everything was pulled back into heaven. At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. The Spirit told me to go with them even though they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man's house. He reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He will tell you how you and your entire household can be saved.' When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the beginning. I remembered the Lord's words: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God's way?"

Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, "So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm for this morning is 148. *Psalm 148:1-5, 14*

**Psalm 148:1-5, 14**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
**praise him in the heights.**

Praise him, all you angels of his;

**praise him, all his host.**

Praise him, sun and moon;

**praise him, all you shining stars.**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,

**and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the Name of the Lord;

**for he commanded, and they were created.**

He has raised up strength for his people

and praise for all his loyal servants,

**the children of Israel, a people who are near him.**

**Hallelujah!**

A reading from the Book of Revelation

*Rev. 21:1-6*

[In my vision, after the great tribulation] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Then the one seated on the throne said,

“Look! I’m making all things new.” He also said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Hymn**

1982 Hymnal #460

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone; Hark! the  
songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*John 13:33-36*

Friends, I am with you for a little while longer. You will look for me — but, just as I told the others, I also tell you now — ‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’

“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

Simon Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you can’t follow me now, but you will follow later.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone; Hark! the  
songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray to God on behalf of the Church, the world, and  
all people.        *A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning  
and the End, the Resurrection and the Life. Fill your whole  
Church with the Holy Spirit. Make it constant in faith, joyful  
in worship, patient in adversity, rich in compassion, and  
radiant with love. Help us to lead many, as you led Cornelius  
and his household, to life, salvation, and fellowship.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace, equip, and encourage those who are persecuted  
on account of their faith –  
in Nigeria, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Grant them the joy  
of your saving help. Hasten the day when all come to you in  
repentance, faith, and joy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all elementary and middle school children with joy,  
love of learning, and kind hearts. Protect them from bullies,  
from the world's alluring dangers, and from everything that  
distracts them from being who you have called them to be.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deliver all people from the powers of sin, evil, and death. Raise up leaders who seek to do your will. Especially we pray for our elected and appointed leaders, and for the welfare of this country. Establish your people in righteousness, liberty, and peace.

We pray for peace, especially for those in Ukraine; hasten the coming of the day when you wipe the tears from all faces; and for the leaders who push their countries to war, bring them into right relationship with you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who stand in harm's way on behalf of others. Help them to do their jobs faithfully, bravely and well. Bring them home in safety when their service is completed. Speed the day when there is no more warfare, pain, or death, and all your people may live at peace with you and with each other. We pray for peace in Ukraine and, for the leaders who push their countries to war, bring them into right relationship with you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray on behalf of all whose needs of body, soul and mind are great. Especially we lift before you the needs of: Downs IV, Holden, Brian and Tyler. Grant healing and recovery for Sandy, Dave, Beverly, Bill, Mary Jo and Barbara. Give peace and strength for those going through cancer treatments, especially Jane, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie

and Douglas. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara, Kim and Mary Ann. Be near to all who are in hospice care.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for fulfilling all your promises to those who died trusting in you; especially those who we name now.

Comfort those who mourn. Walk with us throughout our life's journey.

Transform us into your likeness and let us with perfect clarity see you also in the faces of our neighbors and friends.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:*

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are alive and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** *For All the Saints* #287

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed. Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia, alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia!