

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

First Reading - Acts 11.1-4, 15-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The news was reaching
the apostles and believers
throughout Judea
that the Gentiles also
were hearing and welcoming
the word of God.

But when Peter
returned to Jerusalem,
some of the Hebrew believers
criticised him,
demanding to know why
he had accepted
hospitality
from Gentiles,
and had even
eaten with them.

So Peter explained
the whole sequence of events,
from his vision, while at prayer,
to the gathering
at the house of Cornelius.

And Peter explained, 'As I began to speak,
the Holy Spirit
fell upon them,
just as it had upon us,
at the beginning.

And I remembered
that the Lord had said,
"John baptised with water,
but you will be baptised
with the Holy Spirit."

I saw that God
was giving them
the same gift
that God gave us
when we came to believe in
the Lord Jesus Christ.

And surely
it was not for me
to hinder
the work of God!

When they heard Peter's account,
they could
object
no longer.

And they praised God,
saying, 'Now we see
that God has granted
repentance and life
even to the Gentiles.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 3.16-24a

A reading from the first letter of John.

This is how we know what love is:

that Christ
laid down his life for us.

In the same way, we should
lay down our lives
for one another.

And surely we will
lay down our worldly goods
to support
any brother or sister in need.

My brothers and sisters, let us love,
not only in words, but also in deeds.

Then we will know
that we belong to the truth.

In place of a troubled conscience,
we will have peace in our hearts.

We will come before God
without doubt or fear.

We will have the confidence
to make our requests known to God,
trusting that God will hear our prayers.

For this is God's commandment:
that we should believe in the name
of his Son Jesus Christ,
and love one another.

All who keep this commandment
live in God, and God lives in them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 15.1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father
is the keeper of the vineyard.

He removes every branch in me
that bears no fruit.

Every branch that does bear fruit,
he cleans, and prunes, to bear more fruit.

You have been cleansed
by the words that I have spoken to you.

Now remain in me,
as I remain in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit
unless it remains in the vine,
neither can you bear fruit, unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.

Those who remain in me, and I in them,
will bear much fruit.

Apart from me, you can do nothing -
like a cut and withered branch.

But if you remain in me,
and my words remain in you,
whatever you ask,
it will be done for you.

There is glory for my Father in this:
that you bear much fruit
as my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.