

Sunday 18 April 2027
Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

First Reading - Acts 10.24-29a, 34b-48a

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Two days after Peter's vision,
Peter, and the believers travelling with him,
arrived at the house
of the centurion Cornelius.
Cornelius was expecting them,
and had called together
his relatives
and close friends.
When Peter arrived, Cornelius knelt down
to greet him.
But Peter helped him up, saying, 'Stand up;
I am only human, like you.'
When Peter went inside, he saw the gathering
that Cornelius had assembled.
And Peter addressed them, saying,
'You know that it is against our law
for us, as Hebrews, to associate with Gentiles.
But God has shown me
that I should not regard anyone
as profane, or unclean.
So when I was invited here,
I accepted, without hesitation.
For now I truly understand
that God shows no partiality,
but welcomes those,
from every nation, who honour God,
and do what is right.
This gospel of peace was sent
to the people of Israel
in Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.
The message has spread
through all Judea.
It began in Galilee,
with the preaching of John the Baptist.
Then Jesus of Nazareth was anointed, by God,
with the Holy Spirit, and with power.
He went about doing good, and healing
all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.
We ourselves are witnesses to all that he did,
in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death on a cross.
But God raised him up, on the third day,
and allowed him to appear,
not to all the people, but to those of us
chosen by God as witnesses.
Indeed we ate and drank with him,
after he rose from the dead.
And he commissioned us to continue
the proclamation of the gospel, and to testify
that he is the one, ordained by God,
to be judge of the living and the dead.
All the prophets declare
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness, through his name.'
While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit
fell upon all those who were gathered.

The Hebrew believers, who had travelled with Peter,
were amazed to see
that the gift of the Holy Spirit
was now being poured out
on the Gentiles,
for they heard them
speaking in many languages
and praising the greatness of God.
Peter said, 'Surely no one
can withhold the water
for baptising everyone here,
for they have received the Holy Spirit,
just as we have.'
And he ordered that they should be baptised
in the name of Jesus Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 John 3.1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

The love that God the Father has for us
is so great
that we are already declared
to be children of God.
Those who do not know
the Father
neither see nor understand this.
My brothers and sisters, already
we are children of God;
but there is more
that is still
to be revealed,
of what we are yet
to become;
for we trust that when Christ appears in glory,
we will become yet more fully like him,
for we shall see him face to face.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - John 10.11-18

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'I am the good shepherd, who will
lay down his life for the sheep.
The hired hand runs away
when the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep.
But I am the good shepherd.
I know my own sheep, and they know me;
just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father.
And I lay down my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep,
that do not belong to this sheepfold.
They will also
listen to my voice, and come to me,
so that there will be one flock,
and one shepherd.
And now, in the love of the Father,
and as the Father has decreed, I am ready
to lay down my life - and receive it back again.
No one takes my life from me:
I lay it down of my own accord.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.