

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.