

Peter shares a vision he has had with Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. They interpret the dream as God opening the way of salvation in Jesus Christ to the Gentiles; the church rejoices in the Holy Spirit's work.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES [11: 1-18]

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon,

who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, `John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 148: 1-6 *(8 am said in unison; 10 am sung)*

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.

³ Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, heaven 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 made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

John continues to describe the great vision he has received, finding that heaven and earth are remade in joy and glory, the promises God made through Isaiah are brought to fruition in this renewed paradise.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION [21:1-6]

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her usband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Word of the Lord.