

Peter had believed that the salvation offered through Christ comes only to the Jews, but now he realizes that the good news is meant for all people, and that God's grace is available to everyone.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (8:00 AM unison; 10:00 AM, sung)

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *

his mercy endures for ever.

² Let Israel now proclaim, *

"His mercy endures for ever."

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song, *

and he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There is a sound of exultation and victory *

in the tents of the righteous:

¹⁶ "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *

the right hand of the Lord is exalted!

the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, *

and declare the works of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me sorely, *

but he did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; *

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ "This is the gate of the Lord; *

he who is righteous may enter."

²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *

and have become my salvation.

²² The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Those who are redeemed by Christ have put away the old life of sin. We are now able to focus on spiritual things as we await the glory which is to be revealed.

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians: 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.