

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA**

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Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

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**SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022**

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**Prayer of the Day**

Leader: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Cong.: Amen.**

**The First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second

time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>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.' <sup>17</sup>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?" <sup>18</sup>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 Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>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.”

<sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>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 Gospel: John 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.””

### **Prayers of the People**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

*(A brief silence.)*

L: Holy and eternal God, by your Holy Spirit reveal to us the saving work of Jesus Christ, and strengthen your church to share the good news that leads to eternal life for all. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Send us into the world, and join our voices to the chorus of all creation. Use us to show others your gifts of abundance, and make us stewards of all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Soothe the passions of warring people, and temper our desires for personal power over our neighbors. Free us to love our neighbors and enemies, and make your church the example of your love for the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Comfort those who are hurting, and bless them by your ministers of healing and peace. Dwell with all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit, and especially now with all those we lift before you in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P-A-U-S-E) Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Strengthen the bonds of cooperation and service between congregations and all other institutions of your mercy and grace. Teach us to do your work together in the spirit of your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

L: In Christ's death and resurrection you have fulfilled your promises and the hopes of all your saints. Come swiftly now, we pray, to dwell among us and make all things new in the fulfillment of your final promise. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your son, our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**