A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians:

23 But before the time for faith came, the Law kept us all locked up as prisoners until this coming faith should be revealed. **24** And so the Law was in charge of us until Christ came, in order that we might then be put right with God through faith. **25** Now that the time for faith is here, the Law is no longer in charge of us.

26 It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. **27** You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. **28** So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

Jesus and his disciples sailed on over to the territory of Gerasa, which is across the lake from Galilee. **27** As Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a man from the town who had demons in him. For a long time this man had gone without clothes and would not stay at home, but spent his time in the burial caves. **28** When he saw Jesus, he gave a loud cry, threw himself down at his feet, and shouted, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God! What do you want with me? I beg you, don't punish me!" **29** He said this because Jesus had ordered the evil spirit to go out of him. Many times it had seized him, and even though he was kept a prisoner, his hands and feet tied with chains, he would break the chains and be driven by the demon out into the desert.

30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is 'Mob,'" he answered—because many demons had gone into him. **31** The demons begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss.

32 There was a large herd of pigs near-by, feeding on a hillside. So the demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he let them. **33** They

went out of the man and into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the side of the cliff into the lake and was drowned.

34 The men who had been taking care of the pigs saw what happened, so they ran off and spread the news in the town and among the farms. **35** People went out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were all afraid. **36** Those who had seen it told the people how the man had been cured. **37** Then all the people from that territory asked Jesus to go away, because they were terribly afraid. So Jesus got into the boat and left. **38** The man from whom the demons had gone out begged Jesus, "Let me go with you."

But Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Go back home and tell what God has done for you." The man went through the town, telling what Jesus had done for him.

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**