

#### TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist
Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



#### TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

#### Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- --Share God's love with our community
- --Serve God's children
- --Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- --Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come to all who are born of God; Abide in the love revealed in Jesus Christ.

We come in response to the one who calls us friends. We are here in obedience to Christ's command.

Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Let hands and voices echo God's praise.

Let our lips pour out a joyful noise. Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.

Sing a new song to God who does marvelous things. Obey God's commandments which are not burdensome.

We clap our hands and sing for joy. We live by faith that conquers the world.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

By our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, God has raised us to new life.

Let us confess to God our sins and all that waits for resurrection in our lives. (SEATED OR KNEELING)

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Let us repent of our sin and claim the promise of God.

God of love, in our failure to keep your commandments we have clung to the old life of sin within us. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. Free us from the power of sin, guide us by your Spirit, and help us in our weakness, that we may live as your children, restored to new life; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

#### ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Let us pray the collect together.

We come to your word, O God, with faith and expectation, seeking to know what you want us to learn and do. Teach us your commandments and surround us with your love that we may know the joy of serving you. Grant us your transforming Spirit, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON "Christ's Gifts for Us: Joy, Love, & Friendship" Pastor Rankin (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PEOPLE'S OFFERING

#### OFFERING DEDICATION

Generous God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

#### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We give you thanks that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We boldly proclaim: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

#### THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#### BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

#### RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, Consistory members, committee members, and all volunteers. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

#### SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

## **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chancel Flowers are given by John & Sarah Paulukow in loving memory of Jackie Paulukow.

The Worship Aids are given by Rev. Bob & Hedwig Hunsicker with gratitude for the ministry of Pastor Rankin.

#### **Ministering Today**

**Pastor** Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

**Lector** Rev. Sandy Morris

Money Counters Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller,

Denise Pfeiffer

Koinonia Gretchen Leinbach

Building Trustee Dave Connor Ministries Card SOT Choir

> Called to Care Betty Tyndall Visitation Marlyn Wible

### Happy Birthday!

Monday – Paula Dennes Friday – Peyton Fischer Saturday – Cole Cataldi

Worship Attendance, April 28 2:00-12 7:00-78 TOTAL - 90

Sunday School Attendance 15

#### This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Today 12:15 PM—Lunch Bunch at Fiorentino's

Monday 7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM Bells Thursday 1:30 PM – Evangelism Committee

6:30 PM – Executive Committee

6:00 PM – Cub Scouts

Saturday 8:00 AM – Men's Breakfast

8:00 PM – Alanon/ - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia 10:30 AM - Worship

### PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

#### **MEMBERS**

Joan Sensenig Hillary Bossert-Davis George & Ellie Latsha
Jack Olley Denise Huggins Hedwig Hunsicker

Bob & Marlyn Wible Don & Pat Miller Nancy Patton

Dr. Janet Harriger Joann Peck Harry Himelwright
The Lehman family Mary Lou Shaab Scott & Jane Owens

Donna Wolf & Family Erika Otthofer Carmen & Jerry Richards

Stan & Pat Seachrist
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser

Sam Minder III
Lainie Christensen
Pastor Harry Royer
Rev. Ken Trauger

Betty Tyndall and family
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Michael McDonough
Ron Becker
Danielle Huggins Holbein
Joann & Dawn Garvin

Dr. Parry & Claire Miller Shelly Family Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

The family of Mary Witmer

The family of Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Houshauer)

Tuyet Nguyen (husband of Pat & Stan Seachrist's granddaughter)

**Art Cobb** (nephew of John & Dolly Barr)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

The Herr Family (A Trinity Preschool Family)

Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)

Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

Sally & Joe Carrol (friend of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)

Kurt McEllhemmey (relative of Betty Tyndall)

Mary Ann Hess (friend of Betty Tyndall)

Grace Collier (friend of Pat & Stan Seachrist)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

Marshawn Howse (grandson of Dave & Noreen Trostle)

Elizabeth Trostle (mother of Dave Trostle)

Norma Mallard (friend of Gail Kogut)

Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)

Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)

Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)

Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)

Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)

Aaron Flickinger (nephew of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

Tom Riley (friend of Bud McCarty)

Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)

Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)

Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)

The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

James Malone & family

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

Don Pfeiffer (husband of Denise Pfeiffer)

Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)

The Martin family

Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)

Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)

Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

**THE MAY PARISH POST** is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The April-June edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

MEN OF TRINITY (M.O.T.) BREAKFAST: The men will be meeting in May 11 at 8:00 AM at Family Fare Restaurant. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. This is open to all men of the church!

**PRAYER SHAWL:** The Prayer Shawl will meet Tuesday, May 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM. They will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month! Come and bring a friend. Hope to see many of you there! Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are June 2, 9, & 16. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are June 2. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

KOINONIA/SUNDAYMORNING FELLOWSHIP: We are in need of koinonia sponsors for May 12 & 26! Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. Coffee is always available between 7:45 service and Sunday School.

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: We have 31 coupons left! The cost is \$8 per coupon. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. Make checks payable to Trinity Preschool and put in the white box outside the church office.



May 23, 1:30 PM

Look for the sign-up sheet across from the church office!!!

#### SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

The warmer days of the Summer Camp season are right around the corner! Camp registration is open and ready for you to start planning your summer around weeks at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa! There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. There is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hartman Center Homecoming Camp (July 28-August 3). Look for more information in the Parish Post or on the table across from the church office. Contact Anne Rankin for more information!

As you know, Penn Central Conference pays 50% of camp registration fees. You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with "Camp Scholarship".

UPCOMING EVENTS More Information - https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/

Lutheran Camping Night at Harrisburg Senators at FNB Field - May 17, 2024

Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic at Kirchenwald - May 19, 2024

**2024 CONCERT SPONSORS:** Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY:** Don't forget to wear red, orange, or yellow on May 19 as we celebrate Pentecost.

**ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES:** If someone is graduating in your family, please submit their name, school, and future plans with the church office ASAP!



info@parishresourcecenter.org www.parishresourcecenter.org



## Save the Dates: Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars.

<u>Lancaster Stormers Game (formerly Barnstormers)</u> <u>May 31, 2024</u>

Stormers vs. Charleston Dirty Birds

The cost is \$35 (ticket, suite rental, endless buffet for 90 minutes, gratuity). Children from ages 4-18 will be covered by our Youth Ministry account and those under 4 are free. You can sign-up by contacting Carol in the church office. We will

need a \$15 deposit when you sign-up!

A NEW STORM IS HERE

ASON...<mark>New Look...</mark> Winning Mentality





Join us at the Caddy Shack in Manheim for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and mini-golf will follow! **The golf game will be paid by the church, but lunch is on your own!** Sign-up sheet is on the table in hallway. For more information, please call Cherie Cataldi at (717) 799-2420.

## <u>Friendship Fest----July 14, 2024 – 4-7 PM</u>

Food Trucks, Games, Fun Activities,
Auscultation Brass Concert (5-6 PM)
Proceeds from the Friendship Fest will support the Trinity Preschool!

Watch for more details in the bulletins and future Parish Posts!





AUGUST 25, 3:00-7:00 PM

(Watch for more information in the coming months!!)



## **VBS 2024**

Trinity UCC, 2340 State St., East Petersburg www.trinityeastpete.org 717-569-1632

> July 15 - 18 6:30-8:30 PM July 19 6:30 PM Closing Program

Caretaker And Me Class - Under Five With Caretaker
Children's Classes - Five Through Finished Sixth Grade
Youth Volunteers - Contact Mrs. Slechta
Through stories, crafts, games, and music, "Reach For The Stars" reminds us
that things that seem impossible to us, are possible with God.

Rev. Esbenshade will facilitate the teen/adult class. Studying the book, "Tradition In Crisis" by Peter Schmiechen, the class will examine how "Now is the time to reclaim the church based on the grace and community of Christ."

Offerings and Projects To Be Donated To Habitat For Humanity

Register through the VBS/Rally Day Page at www.trinityeastpete.org



Look for the yellow VBS Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets on the table outside office.

Books for the adult class are available in the church office!!



## Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



## All 4 Screenings for \$149

#### **Carotid Artery Disease:**

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

#### Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD):

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.1

#### **Abdominal Aortic** Aneurysm (AAA):

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, stroke, and heart failure, which is a life-threatening medical emergency.

#### Atrial Fibrillation:

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation, AFib can lead to blood clots, and other heart-related complications.2

We will be in your neighborhood soon on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at East Petersburg - Trinity United Church of Christ

## **Get your special Community Circle pricing!**

Three ways to register and receive the special discount:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5191 Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



# **Getting Screened is Simple!**

Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.



https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/peripheral-artery-disease/about-peripheral-artery-disease-pad

2 https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/atrial-fibrillation

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.

No single screening can detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

#### Psalm 98

#### SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

#### **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

[Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."