

Sentence of Scripture

'I give you a new commandment,' says the Lord, 'that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

John 13.34

Prayer of the day

We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son,
lifted up on the cross and exalted on high:
be glorified anew in the love we have for one another
as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Acts 11:1–18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "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. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ 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.' ¹⁷ 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?" ¹⁸ 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."

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all his angels:

O praise him, all his host.

³ Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all you stars of light.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heaven:

and you waters that are above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever:

he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.

⁷ O praise the Lord from the earth:

praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸ Fire and hail, mist and snow:

and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

⁹ Mountains and all hills:

fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:

creeping things and winged birds;

¹¹ Kings of the earth, and all peoples:

princes, and all rulers of the world;

¹² Young men and maidens:

old folk and children together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

¹⁴ His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.

Revelation 21:1–6

¹ Then 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. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ 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; ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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." ⁶ 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.

(NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

John 13:31–35

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ 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.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**