

## THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock*

### THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

*The scriptural texts for this season of Eastertime help us recall the beginnings of the church, and one of the things which accompanied the growth of the early church was witness through the form of "good works and acts of charity". Thus, the commendable example of Dorcas serves as the topic in today's First Lesson, reminding the church that mission often takes the form of responding to the needs of others. The psalmist's theme of the Lord as shepherd anticipates the Gospel reading, where Jesus responds to a challenge by asserting that his sheep hear his voice, he knows them, and they follow him. The Second Lesson is a portion of that vision of the redeemed before the throne of God.*

#### FIRST READING: Acts 9.36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord

*R/. Thanks be to God*

#### PSALM: 23—Dominus regit me; Tone VIII,1



- 1 THE LORD is my **sh**ep-herd : therefore can I lack no-thing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green **pas**-ture :  
and lead me forth beside the wa-**ters** of com-fort.
- 3 He shall restore my **soul** :  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, **for** his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no **e**-vil :  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy **st**äff com-fort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that **trou**-ble me  
: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my **cup** shall be full.
- 6 Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
**life** : and I will dwell in the house of the **Lord** for ev-er.

## SECOND READING: Revelation 7.9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord

*R/. Thanks be to God*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 10.14

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

#### GOSPEL: John 10.22-30

*R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord*

It was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

The Gospel of Christ

*R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ*