

# livingtheword

[www.livingtheword.wordpress.com](http://www.livingtheword.wordpress.com)

Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

## Reading 1

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him.

And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

R. (26a) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or:

R. Alleluia.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.

The lowly shall eat their fill;

they who seek the LORD shall praise him:

"May your hearts live forever!"

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or:

R. Alleluia.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or:

R. Alleluia.

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or:

R. Alleluia.

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him.

Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born

the justice he has shown.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

or:

R. Alleluia.

## Reading II

1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,

we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel  
Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.

Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

### Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- The disciples were afraid of Saul. God is a God of surprises but the disciples could not imagine the greatest source of persecution could 'turn-around'. Consider what is most hurtful in your life at the moment - is there a surprise or inspiration God has been trying to share with you? A new way of thinking to embrace it rather than avoid it?
- Barnabas and Paul show us the cost of the committed christian life. They are 'radicals'. They go a bit further. Without people like Barnabas and Paul the Church is stagnant. 'Barnabas took charge of him (Paul)'. Who is on the 'outside of your group, community, workplace' whom you could include?
- LOVE is something lived, it looks like something. Too easily love stays in 'word or speech' and doesn't make it to 'deed and truth'. What love action could you commit to this week that you have struggled with for a while.....
- The image of the Gospel this Sunday is the image of life flowing through the vine into the branches. 'Remain in me' repeats itself 6 times! How could you go 1 step further in praying with scripture, celebrating the sacraments, living christian community?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?