

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth & heaven. (v13)*

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness & peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT-Acts 11:1-18

...<sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,...<sup>3</sup> “Why did you go to uncircumcised men & eat with them?”<sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them,...<sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, & in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; & it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, & birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill & eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house... <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them & not to make a distinction between them & us. These six brothers also accompanied me, & we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house & saying, ‘Send to Joppa & bring Simon [Peter]... <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you & your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord... ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>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?”<sup>18</sup>...And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit***

1. Compare & contrast this story with Jesus declaration on cleanliness (*Mark 7:1-8, 14-30*). You may need to back up to *Acts 10:1ff* to get the full context. *Hint: look for topics, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. Remember to include themes, imagery/ illustrations & “mirror images.” See also Isaiah 60:3, 49:6; Mark 2:15-16; 1 Corinthians 6:12-13*
2. Read *Leviticus 11* along with your study Bible’s notes. What do you learn about these distinctions? How is the family table an extension of the Lord’s altar? How are the distinctions the people must make like the distinction God makes between them & others?  
*See Leviticus 20:24, 20:8, 21:8*

**EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ***

3. How does St. Peter backslide in *Galatians 2:11-21*? When are times you backslid from proper right teaching & action because of social pressure? What was the outcome? Have you returned to the proper thing? What’s needed for you to do so?
4. Consider St. Paul’s words in *Romans 16:17-18* (or *1 Corinthians 5:11*) regarding false teachers & troublemakers within a congregation. What’s worse & how: an outsider who has only just met Jesus & begun to learn his teachings or an insider who rejects Jesus & his teachings (at least in part)?

**NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters***

5. Think about your connections in your community. Which are not frequent & regular “actives” in your (or any) congregation. How is God using you to show & tell them about repentance & Jesus?
6. Review the Small Catechism: Creed iii, & Holy Baptism. What does it look like for the Holy Spirit to be given? How do you show & tell this to someone you named in #5? *SC available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*

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Fifth Sunday after Easter

05.18.25

Series: Looking Up

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*After Jesus teaches & goes up into heaven, things are looking up  
for the early church*

Eat Up!

*Eating brings life*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What  
God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ (v9)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Everyone will know that you are my disciples  
if you have love for one another. (*John 13:35*)

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