

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER

Gathering

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and clothe us with power from on high. Alleluia.

Hymn Holy Holy Holy (CP 1)/Send the Fire

Word

Acts 11.19-26

^{11.19} Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Table Discussion

The writer describes the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles in Syria, and their enthusiastic acceptance of “the Lord.” Barnabas, too, an emissary from the Jewish converts in Jerusalem, approves of this initiative. He seeks out Saul (now Paul), and together they instruct the disciples in Antioch for a whole year. The fervour of this community leads others to call them “Christians” – likely not a complimentary nickname at the time.

In your table group:

1. What characteristics of the Church might lead others to call us “Christian?” Is this meant as a compliment? Why or why not?

Hymn Ten thousand reasons

Litany

Lift up our hearts to the heavenly places
and inspire us to serve you as a royal priesthood.
God of the prophets, hear our prayer.

Let all peoples acknowledge your reign of justice and peace
and grant on earth the blessing of peace.
God of the prophets, hear our prayer.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your church with power from on high.
God of the prophets, hear our prayer.

May peace abound and righteousness flourish,
so that we may vanquish injustice and wrong.
God of the prophets, hear our prayer.

Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation,
and grant us the needful gifts of your grace.
God of the prophets, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit
and gathering our prayers and praises
into the many languages God has given us,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

or

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sending

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.