

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

In the early Church, Christians took seriously the call our Lord gave to live as a family, to give to anyone in need, and to count others before yourself. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,

- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1—2:2

The kingdom of God is built not on perfect behavior but on humble confession. Invoking the authority of the disciples and eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry, John urges Christians to seek righteousness. A reading from the First Letter of John:

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ

the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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