

Lectionary Texts for May 5, 2024 • Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B
Acts 10:44-48 • Psalm 98 • 1 John 5:1-6 • John 15:9-17



Acts 10:44-48

Holy Spirit as Breath, 977-993

Manuscript illumination, Codex Egberti, Fol 103
Benedictine Monastery of Reichenau, Germany
Stadtbibliothek Trier (Trier City Library), Trier, Germany

Continued

Peter is preaching to Gentiles, the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and they are baptized.

The codex from which this work is taken was commissioned by Egbert, Archbishop of Trier, between 977 and 963, and contains 51 illuminations. These form the earliest picture cycle of the Life of Christ in the history of manuscript illumination. The codex is now housed in Trier, Germany, near Luxembourg, some 270 miles northwest of Reichenau Island.

This Benedictine Monastery was founded on Reichenau Island, in southwest Germany near Switzerland, in 724. It was on a main north-south route between Germany and Italy and was frequented by Greek, Italian, Irish, and Icelandic pilgrims and travelers. This activity resulted in Reichenau developing into an influential religious, cultural, and intellectual center, attracting poets, authors, scientists, and scholars.

Reichenau Island, also referred to as the Monastic Island of Reichenau, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the Early and High Middle Ages, the Reichenau Abbey was one of the significant monasteries within the Frankish Empire (the largest post-Roman Barbarian kingdom in West Europe.) Two additional churches on the island, Saint Peter and Paul (in 799) and Saint George (in 896), contain significant artworks and murals. The transepts and apse of the church of St Mary and Mark (1048), linked to the Carolingian parts by the nave, are equally important to the history of European architecture.

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Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with
righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”