

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM from today's Mass gives indications of the universality of God's justice and salvation. The emphasis is still on the house of Israel: they are God's specially chosen people. Yet God has guided and directed this people of His "in the sight of the nations." All the ends of the earth have seen His salvation. Hence all the lands, all the peoples, are urged to praise God for His kindness.

This general description involving whole nations of peoples becomes personalized in the incident recounted by St. Luke in today's First Reading. Peter had begun to see that a person's background or ancestry or nationality was not a crucial factor in God's sight. *Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.*

If such a man as Cornelius is acceptable to God, how can he not be acceptable to God's disciples? How can God's ministers, assigned to do His work, refuse to impart the sacraments to him? And as if to confirm Peter's insight, the gift of the Spirit was given to these Gentiles, including the ability to speak in tongues. Peter could only conclude, *What can stop these people who have received the Holy Spirit, even as we have, from being baptized with water?* And so a family of Gentiles became Christian through water and the Spirit.

No matter who we are, no matter what we have been or done in the past, we are beloved of God. Whatever good fortune we have had in coming to know God, to believe in Him, to love Him, has all been a result of God's initiative in loving us first. *Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins.*

It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you... May we ever live up to the Lord's incredible choice of us as His disciples.

ABOUT THE COVER: *The love of man and woman is a symbol of the love that radiates from God to man through Jesus Christ.*



Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The man without love has known nothing of God, for God is love.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

MAY 27, 1973