



**FIRST READING** Acts 9: 26-31

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem,

29 preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists; but they were seeking to kill him.

30 And when the brethren knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was built up; and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied.

**SECOND READING** 1 John 3: 18-24

18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him

20  
whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21  
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God;

22  
and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

23  
And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

24  
All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.

**GOSPEL READING**

**John 15: 1-8**

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

word which I have spoken to you.

3 You are already made clean by the  
4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5  
I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6  
If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

7  
If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.

