

# BIBLE READINGS SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April

## Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> The Lord's angel said to Philip, "Go south along the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So Philip left.

An important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. He was the chief treasurer for Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. <sup>30</sup> Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup> The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.

<sup>32</sup> The man was reading the passage that said,

"He was led like a sheep  
on its way to be killed.  
He was silent as a lamb  
whose wool  
is being cut off,  
and he did not say  
a word.

<sup>33</sup> He was treated like a nobody  
and did not receive  
a fair trial.

How can he have children,  
if his life  
is snatched away?"

<sup>34</sup> The official said to Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36-37</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. The official said, "Look! Here is some water. Why can't I be baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> After they had come out of the water, the Lord's Spirit took Philip away. The official never saw him again, but he was very happy as he went on his way.

<sup>40</sup> Philip later appeared in Azotus. He went from town to town, all the way to Caesarea, telling people about Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

## 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life. We are now God's

children, and we know him. <sup>8</sup> God is love, and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him. <sup>9</sup> God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. <sup>10</sup> Real love isn't our love for God, but his love for us. God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other.

<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is truly in our hearts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

### **John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of what I have said to you.

<sup>4</sup> Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. <sup>6</sup> If you don't stay joined to me, you will be thrown away. You will be like dry branches that are gathered up and burned in a fire.

<sup>7</sup> Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. <sup>8</sup> When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honoured.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.