

## Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

Today is the Feast Day of Cornelius the Centurion. Cornelius represents the very epicenter of the Epiphany season, since he was the first Gentile to be baptized. The Book of Acts (10:1 - 11:18) describes Cornelius as a God-fearing man who prayed frequently, performed good works, and gave alms to the poor. Cornelius receives a vision in which God's angel informs him that his prayers have been answered, and he is instructed to send men to Joppa where they will find the apostle Peter residing with a tanner named Simon. About this time, Peter is told in a trance that, "What God has made clean, you must not profane." Peter interprets this vision that God wishes him also to preach to the Gentiles. Cornelius' men find Peter, and Peter accompanies them back to Caesarea. Peter and Cornelius share their visions, and Peter instructs Cornelius in Jesus' ministry. Subsequently, the Holy Spirit descends on the gathering, and Cornelius and his household speak in tongues. Peter then commands that Cornelius and his household be baptized. The reception of Cornelius sparked a conversation among Christian leaders that culminated in Gentiles being allowed to become Christians without being circumcised.

***If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.***