



## **A Service of Holy Eucharist**

*For the*  
**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the  
Episcopal Diocese of  
East Tennessee**

*Feast of Cornelius the Centurion*

**Friday, February 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm  
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Norris, TN**

**The Rt. Rev. Brian Lee Cole, Bishop  
The Rev. Amanda Joy Lippe, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson, Homilist  
The Ven. Dr. Jerry Askew, Deacon**

*Please enter the Church reverently and quietly  
respecting those in prayer.*

## **WELCOME TO ALL**

*No matter where you come from or where you are going, no matter what you believe or what you doubt, no matter what you feel or don't feel today, no matter whom you love, you are welcome into this space to be met by a God who knows you by name, who knows your heart, who knows your mind, and ... who wants to have a relationship with you.*

*This parish welcomes all, encourages the involvement of youth, and gathers together at God's table to offer our diverse gifts to others in the community and to advance the kingdom of God.*

*Welcome to St. Francis Church. During our worship service we will use The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS), and Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP). BCP and Hymn numbers appear in bold.*

### **St. Francis Episcopal Church**

158 West Norris Road, P.O. Box 29, Norris, TN 37828

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# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

### CARILLON PEAL

### PRELUDE

'Be Thou My Vision'  
Simon Ballintoy, *Organ*

Arr. Hal Hopson

### OPENING HYMN

'God, My King, Thy Might Confessing'

*Hymnal 1982 414*

*Descant*

6 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; thee shall all thy

1 God, my King, thy might confessing, ever will I  
2 Honor great our God befitting; who his majesty  
3 They shall talk of all thy glory, on thy might and  
4 Nor shall fail from memory's treasure works by love and  
5 Full of kindness and compassion, slow to anger,

saints adore: King supreme shall they confess thee,

1 bless thy Name; day by day thy throne addressing,  
2 thy can reach? Age to age his works transmitting,  
3 greatness dwell, speak of thy dread acts the story,  
4 mercy wrought, works of love surpassing measure,  
5 vast in love, God is good to all creation;

and pro - claim thy sov - ereign power.

1 still will I thy praise pro - claim.  
 2 age to age his power shall teach.  
 3 and thy deeds of won - der tell.  
 4 works of mer - cy pass - ing thought.  
 5 all his works his good - ness prove.

6 All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee;  
 thee shall all thy saints adore:  
 King supreme shall they confess thee,  
 and proclaim thy sovereign power.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Bishop* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

**BCP 323**

*Bishop* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly  
 love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

'Glory to God'

*Hymnal 1982 S 280*

*The following is sung, all standing.*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to his people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 357

*Bishop*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*           **And also with you.**  
*Bishop*           Let us pray.

O God, who by your Spirit called Cornelius the Centurion to be the first Christian among the Gentiles: Grant to your church such a ready will to go where you send and to do what you command that the prejudices that blind us might cease, and that we might welcome all who turn to you in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

BCP 357

### FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

*Please be seated.*

*Lector*           A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 67**

*Remain seated.*

*The Psalm will be sung by the cantor.*

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

**GRADUAL HYMN BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

*Hymnal 1982 529, Verses 1-2*

'In Christ There Is No East or West'

*Unison or harmony*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in  
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -  
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther  
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-29**

*All stand.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**GRADUAL HYMN AFTER THE GOSPEL**

*Hymnal 1982 529, Verse 3*

'In Christ There Is No East or West'

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson  
*School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee*

**THE NICENE CREED**

**BCP 358**

*All stand.*

*All*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM III

BCP 387

*All remain standing or kneeling.*

*Intercessor* Almighty God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*People* ***That we all may be one.***

*Intercessor* In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Church (Rugby, TN), Holy Comforter (Lower Brule, SD), and St. John the Baptist (Crow Creek, SD). In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Diocese of Kapoeta – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. In our St. Francis Cycle of Prayer, we ask your blessing on Richard and Victoria Stribling, Lisa Shirey, and Beth Casey.

*Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*People* ***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

*Intercessor* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Brian our Bishop, and all other priests, deacons, and ministers;

*People* ***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

*Intercessor* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*People* ***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

*Intercessor* We pray for the men and women serving in our armed services at home and abroad.

*People* ***That they may serve with honor protecting the freedoms of all and return home safely.***

*Intercessor* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*People* ***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

*Intercessor* Have compassion on those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*People* ***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

*Intercessor* We pray for all those who have died in the past year, especially those in our East Tennessee diocesan family: Paul Andrzejewski, Lida Barrett, Nellie Corinne Bell, Brian Bilbrey, Teresa Brooks, Charles Carpenter, Jewel Carroll, Amanda Cate, Mary Ruth Clinton, Garvin Colburn, The Rev. David Crippen, The Rev. Dr. Jim Curtis, Julie Dollar, James DuBose, Mary Tod Finch, Breezie Finley, Ralph Gannaway, The Rev. Kuulei Green, Elizabeth Harrison, The Rev. Gene Haws, Ralph Hillmer, Thomas Howell, Al Hudson, Joe Huffstetler, The Rev. Thomas Hutson, Virginia Hyman, Gerry Jones, Marty Landis, Nancy Mapel, Patty Maroney, The Rev. James Marquis, Venita Martin, Carolyn Minnich, Pat Morton, Stephen Mosman, The Rev. Ed Osborne, Fritz Parman III, Herky Payne, The Rev. Joseph Pinner, Eddie Reavis, James Ridley III, Marjory Rogers, The Right Reverend William Sanders, Joyce Smith, Suzanne Smith, Rose Nash Spears, Sarah Stowers, Haven Temple, Carolyn Townsend, Carla Turnbo, Phyllis Leonard Turner, and Robert Terrence Wertz.

We also pray for those who have died that we invite you to name now.

*Silence*

Give to the departed eternal rest;

*People* ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

*Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*People* ***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

*Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

## CONCLUDING COLLECT FOR THE PRAYERS

*Bishop* Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in parts of the earth the community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors and that in every place your servants call upon your name, for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

*Bishop* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Bishop* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

BCP 360

*Please stand.*

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*We invite you to greet your fellow delegates and church members by sending a message to them!*

# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY

BCP 376

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'How Great Thou Art'  
*Rev. Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, Soloist*

Arr. Lloyd Larson

## The Great Thanksgiving

### SURSUM CORDA

BCP 367

*Please stand.*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

BCP 367

*Bishop* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

‘Holy, Holy, Holy’

Hymnal 1982 S 125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BCP 362

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Bishop*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*All*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

Bishop

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Francis and Cornelius, all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BCP 363**

Bishop

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**FRACTION ANTHEM**

*Hymnal 1982 S 161*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Bishop* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**SPIRITUAL PRAYER FOR THOSE UNABLE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION IN CHURCH AT THIS TIME**

*Bishop* In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Your Church, where Your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving. I present to You my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to You. And since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to You, and embrace You with all the affections of my soul O let nothing ever separate me from You. Let me live and die in Your love. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN**

‘Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel’

*Hymnal 1982 574*

1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science  
 2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to  
 3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious  
 4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits

quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the  
 all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from  
 to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to  
 pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O

mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and  
 sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us  
 catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of  
 God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple

shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.  
 with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.  
 pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.  
 may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BCP 365**

*Bishop* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**POEM**

**By Henri-Frederic Amiel**

*All* **Life is short, and we do not have much time  
 to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us.  
 So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.**

*Bishop*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, The Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL

‘Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated’

*Hymnal 1982 707*

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.





take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.  
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

**DISMISSAL**

**BCP 366**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

‘Praise to the Lord, the Almighty’

Johann Gottfried Walther

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**Welcome to Our Guests**

St. Francis extends a warm welcome to all guests.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOSE SERVING AND VOLUNTEERING TODAY**

<b>Celebrant:</b>	The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole, Diocesan Bishop
<b>Deacon:</b>	The Ven. Dr. Jerry Askew
<b>Homilist:</b>	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson
<b>Lectors and Intercessors:</b>	Mr. Richard Dyer
<b>Organist/Choir Director:</b>	Mr. Bradley Patterson and Mr. Simon Ballintoy
<b>Cantor:</b>	The Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson
<b>Altar Guild and Flowers:</b>	Ms. Dianne Sowell
<b>Other Volunteers:</b>	Mr. Adam Ballintoy



This evening, the flowers are given to the glory of God by Dianne Sowell.

**The Rev. Dr. Deborah Jackson**  
**Associate Dean for Community Life**  
**University of the South, Sewanee**

Deborah Jackson, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, graduated from the School of Theology in Sewanee with an M.Div. in 2007. Immediately following graduation, she began her ministry as a canon at St. John's Cathedral in downtown Jacksonville—the cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Jackson later served as assistant rector at St. Paul's by the Sea Episcopal Church in Jacksonville Beach, and most recently as interim associate rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville.

Jackson received her undergraduate degree in behavioral science from Rollins College before earning an M.B.A. in marketing and management from Jacksonville University. Her studies led her to a 23-year career in marketing with Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Florida. Additionally, Jackson has been an adjunct instructor at Florida State College at Jacksonville for the past two years.

In May 2013, Jackson graduated from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, where she earned her D.Min. with a focus on transformative leadership. Her thesis was a study of young adults in the millennial generation, titled "Welcoming Young Adults Home: Creating a Model for the Churching of Young Adults."

Raised in the United Methodist Church, Jackson made the switch to The Episcopal Church after marrying and starting a family, joining St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida. Jackson and her husband, Jim, have three grown children—Jerrold, Justin, and Ashley.

## Cornelius the Centurian

All that we know of Cornelius is contained in the tenth and eleventh chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. He was the first Gentile converted to the Christian faith, along with his household. A centurion was commander of a company of one hundred men in the Roman army, responsible for their discipline, both on the field of battle and in camp. He was a Roman citizen, a military career man, well-paid, and generally noted for courage and competence. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Cornelius was a centurion in the Italian Cohort, the *Cohors II Italica Civium Romanorum*, a cohort of the Roman army formed of citizens from the province of Italy. Some centurions, such as Cornelius, and those whom we know about from the Gospel narratives, were men of deep religious piety.

Saint Luke the Evangelist, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, considered Cornelius' conversion momentous for the future of Christianity. He records that it occurred as the result of divine intervention and revelation, and as a response to the preaching of Peter the chief apostle. The experience of Cornelius' household was regarded as comparable to a new Pentecost, and it was a primary precedent for the momentous decision of the apostolic council, held in Jerusalem a few years later, to admit Gentiles to full and equal partnership with Jewish converts in the household of faith.

According to a later tradition, Cornelius was the second bishop of Caesarea, the metropolitan see of Palestine. Undoubtedly, Cornelius and his household formed the nucleus of the first Church in this important city, a Church that was gathered by Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8:40 and 21:8).

Cornelius is commemorated in the Calendar of the Episcopal Church on February 4 and in the Eastern Churches on September 13.



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