

7 Pentecost: July 11, 2021

Lessons and Hymns: The Birth of the Church in Acts

Today's service will consist of a selection of readings and hymns that highlight the birth of the early church. The readings have been chosen and are reflected in the bulletin, but the hymns will be spontaneously chosen by the congregation at the locations designated in the bulletin. Please see page 13 for a list of hymns from which to choose that relate to today's theme. You are invited to raise your hand to indicate your choice to the assisting minister at the appropriate time.

Prelude

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn—Congregation Requests

Dialogue—Psalm 67

A: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

C: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

A: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

A: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

A: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Bidding Prayer

A: Beloved in Christ, be it this day our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the Acts of the Holy Spirit; in heart and mind to go even unto Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the Earth and see this thing which is come to pass; the birth of the Church through the Holy Spirit.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of the Church until now.

Opening Prayer

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, through the ages you have sent your promise to your people in many ways, through many voices. But in these last days, your Son has come to bring it among us in person and you have poured your Spirit into our hearts so that we may call you Father. By that same Spirit, prepare our hearts to be the Body of Christ for each other and for the world, which you so love, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word

The First Word

The Ascension of Christ

Acts 1:1-12

Luke writes: ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why

do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Second Word

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-13

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Third Word

Peter Preaches

Acts 2:14-24

¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed,

these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

²² You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know —²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Fourth Word

The First Converts

Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ Now when the crowd heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thou-

sand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Fifth Word

The Believers Pray Boldly and Share Generously

Acts 4:24-54

²⁴ The believers raised their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, ²⁵ it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

'Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.'

²⁷ For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as

many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Sixth Word

The Apostles Heal Many

Acts 5:12-16

¹² Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶ A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Seventh Word

The Apostles are Persecuted

Acts 5:17-42

¹⁷ Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, ¹⁸ arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, ²⁰ Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life. ²¹ When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.

When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, ²³ We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside. ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and

the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. ²⁵ Then someone arrived and announced, “Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!” ²⁶ Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. ³⁵ Then he said to them, “Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. ³⁶ For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them — in that case you may even be found fighting against God!”

They were convinced by him, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. ⁴² And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn—Congregation Requests

The Final Word

Seven Chosen to Assist the Apostles

Acts 6:1-7

¹ Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ² And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴ while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵ What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Thanksgiving for the Word

A: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #293 (maroon hymnal): "Thank You, Lord"

1 Thank you, Lord,
thank you, Lord,
thank you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

3 Love you, Lord,
love you, Lord,
love you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

2 Been so good,
been so good,
been so good,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Closing Dialogue—Psalm 96

A: Sing to the LORD a new song;

C: sing to the LORD, all the earth!

A: Sing to the LORD and bless God's name;

C: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

A: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

C: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

A: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

C: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

A: Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God who is coming.

C: God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the LORD!

Blessing

A: May the Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters when the universe was created, gave humanity first breath, and brought into existence the Church, breathe into you the life He gives.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn—Congregation Requests

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Chrissi Bergt** (Kate Wollenburg's cousin); **Beth** (Elinor Schieman's daughter); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Ann Cathcart** (Laines' daughter-in-law); **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Colin** (Millers' grandson); **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Lee and Jane Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Jim Hammerling** (Portmanns' son-in-law); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Ruth Lohmeier**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Hazel Mersch** (Mayhughs' granddaughter); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin, Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila**

Schultz (Betty Pack’s friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings’ daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings’ family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner’s grand-nephew); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans’ grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim’s dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle’s granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle’s neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle’s cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jacob Vegso** (Millers’ nephew); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner’s friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack’s granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle’s daughter-in-law).

At the death of: **Tucker Asari, Erik Trejo and Milo Watson** (students at Princeton High School).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords’ neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman’s grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman’s great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Loretta’s grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl’s son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn’s granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl’s son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Becky Betsch’s brother); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner’s grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadin and Barry Wisecup).

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 11: 7 Pentecost—Hymn Sing!

10:30 am Worship Service (in-person/
livestreamed)

After Worship: Evangelism Committee

Wednesday, July 14

NO BIBLE STUDY*

Thursday, July 15

NO BIBLE STUDY*

Sunday, July 18: 8 Pentecost

10:30 am Worship Service (in-person/
livestreamed)

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

Wednesday, July 21

6:30 pm Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

Thursday, July 22

10:30 am Bible Study (in-person/Zoom)

**Pastor is out of the office on vacation July 8-18. She can still be reached in a pastoral emergency at 513-760-5884.*

Hymn Selection

Blue Hymnal (*With One Voice*)

WOV 680	O Spirit of Life
WOV 684	Spirit of Gentleness
WOV 712	Listen, God Is Calling
WOV 747	Christ Is Made the Sure Founda- tion (<i>Westminster Abbey</i>)
WOV 752	Here I Am, Lord
WOV 754	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
WOV 755	We All Are One in Mission
WOV 756	Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Maroon Hymnal (*This Far by Faith*)

TFF 101	Spirit of the Living God (<i>Iverson</i>)
TFF 102	There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place
TFF 220	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Green Hymnal (*Lutheran Book of Worship*)

LBW 160	Filled with the Spirit's Power
LBW 161	O Day Full of Grace
LBW 163	Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
LBW 353	May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
LBW 355	Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
LBW 357	Our Father, by Whose Name
LBW 358	Glories of Your Name Are Spoken
LBW 359	In Christ There Is No East or West
LBW 362	We Plow the Fields and Scatter (<i>Wir pflügen</i>)
LBW 363	Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
LBW 364	Son of God, Eternal Savior
LBW 365	Built on a Rock
LBW 368	I Love Your Kingdom, Lord
LBW 369	The Church's One Foundation
LBW 370	Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor *away

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Nancy Erbeck, Assisting Minister

Carroll and Cindy Mayhugh, Readers

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

To give your offering through our website, please visit stpaulreading.org/online-giving/