

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven & on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, & give to all the world the Spirit of your truth & peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The newly baptized believers] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching & fellowship, to the breaking of bread & the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders & signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together & had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions & goods & distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home & ate their food with glad & generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God & having the goodwill of all the people. & day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does v⁴² reflect proper traditional, biblical, orthodox, liturgical worship (i.e., as found in the green Lutheran Book of Worship, or cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship)?
2. Consider *Luke 24:44-48, (49-52), 53*. How does the *Acts* reading demonstrate what Jesus tells them? Consider also Luke's "great songs" (*1:46-55, 67-79, 2:29-32*); how are they coming true in *Acts*? How are they still coming true today in your congregation?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What prevents you from having a glad & generous heart in your congregation? Review the 10 Commandments & their Small Catechism explanations, as well as the Table of Duties. Remember what your kindergarten teacher said, "When you point 1 finger, 3 point back at you." How is your vision for congregational life too small compared to the glimpse given in *Acts 2* (cf. #5)? SC available bookofconcord.org
4. Sometimes congregations do have pirates working against the congregation's mission & vision for ministry. How can you tell such people "No" & redirect them to the congregation's work & away from their own schemes? Pray for God to give you this courage & wisdom. By the way, what is your congregation's mission (statement)?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How does a congregation's meaningful worship (cf. #1), works of mercy (v⁴³) in the neighborhood, & "glad & generous hearts" (v⁴⁶) promote: 1) goodwill in the neighborhood & 2) lead to conversions & baptisms (v⁴⁷)? How are you doing these things each week? See *Acts 4:32-35, 5:12-16, 42*
6. In contemporary American culture, the tithe- 10% of income donated to one's local congregation- has become a rule of thumb for discipleship. Studies show average gifts to be 2% or less. How many signs & wonders could your congregation accomplish, or needs meet, (v^{43, 45}) with 5x more income? Pray for God to show you how to build up to a tithe & to give you the courage to do it. See *2 Corinthians 8:8-15, 9:6-15*

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Series: Forged by the Spirit

05.14.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

A Day in the Life

How do we actually live day-to-day with fellow believers in everyday life?

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home & ate their food with glad & generous hearts, praising God & having the goodwill of all the people. (v46-74a)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who love me will keep my word, & my Father will love them, & we will come to them & make our home with them. (John 14:23)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2023; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 66:8-20
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven & on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, & give to all the world the Spirit of your truth & peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Acts 2:42-47

⁴²[The newly baptized believers] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching & fellowship, to the breaking of bread & the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders & signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together & had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions & goods & distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home & ate their food with glad & generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God & having the goodwill of all the people. & day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does v⁴² reflect proper traditional, biblical, orthodox, liturgical worship (i.e., as found in the green Lutheran Book of Worship, or cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship)?
2. Consider *Luke 24:44-48, (49-52), 53*. How does the *Acts* reading demonstrate what Jesus tells them? Consider also Luke's "great songs" (*1:46-55, 67-79, 2:29-32*); how are they coming true in *Acts*? How are they still coming true today in your congregation?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What prevents you from having a glad & generous heart in your congregation? Review the 10 Commandments & their Small Catechism explanations, as well as the Table of Duties. Remember what your kindergarten teacher said, "When you point 1 finger, 3 point back at you." How is your vision for congregational life too small compared to the glimpse given in *Acts 2* (cf. #5)? SC available bookofconcord.org
4. Sometimes congregations do have pirates working against the congregation's mission & vision for ministry. How can you tell such people "No" & redirect them to the congregation's work & away from their own schemes? Pray for God to give you this courage & wisdom. By the way, what is your congregation's mission (statement)?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How does a congregation's meaningful worship (cf. #1), works of mercy (v⁴³) in the neighborhood, & "glad & generous hearts" (v⁴⁶) promote: 1) goodwill in the neighborhood & 2) lead to conversions & baptisms (v⁴⁷)? How are you doing these things each week? See *Acts 4:32-35, 5:12-16, 42*
6. In contemporary American culture, the tithe- 10% of income donated to one's local congregation- has become a rule of thumb for discipleship. Studies show average gifts to be 2% or less. How many signs & wonders could your congregation accomplish, or needs meet, (v^{43, 45}) with 5x more income? Pray for God to show you how to build up to a tithe & to give you the courage to do it. See *2 Corinthians 8:8-15, 9:6-15*

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Series: Forged by the Spirit

05.14.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

A Day in the Life

How do we actually live day-to-day with fellow believers in everyday life?

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home & ate their food with glad & generous hearts, praising God & having the goodwill of all the people. (v46-74a)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Those who love me will keep my word, & my Father will love them, & we will come to them & make our home with them. (*John 14:23*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2022; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog