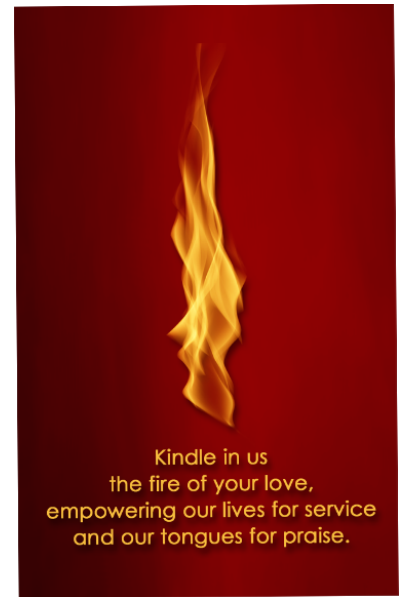


The Book of Acts

Daily Reading and Reflection

Immanuel Lutheran Church



Monday, June 3: Acts 1:1-14

There is a lot of waiting in these verses: "Wait for the promise of the Father" "It is not for you to know the times" "When the Holy Spirit has come." How hard is it for you to go slowly and wait? How can you/we wait for the Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit, you are God of all time, help us wait for the right time when you will come to show us the way. Amen.

Tuesday, June 4: Acts 1:15-26

It seems odd to cast lots to appoint a new disciple! Yet it is one way of asking for God's direction. How might we hear and trust God's direction today?

Holy Spirit, you know us well. Show us what you have chosen us to do in this city in the years to come. Amen.

Wednesday, June 5: Acts 2:1-21

Have you ever had a dream or idea that you thought might be from God? Would you be open to it if God gave you a dream or idea? Why or why not?

Holy Spirit, you are God of the past and future. Speak to us and help us hear you. Amen.

Thursday, June 6: Acts 2:22-36

Peter quotes Psalm 16, "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy." (NRSV) Where have you seen fullness of joy in your life?

Holy Spirit, help us see your path that leads to life and fullness of joy. Amen.

Friday, June 7: Acts 2:37-47

The end of Acts chapter 2 describes a vision of what a church community could be. What dreams do you have for our church community?

Holy Spirit come upon us. Guide us into the future. Show us how to become your beloved community. Amen.

Monday, June 10: Acts 3:1-26

The lame man was begging outside of the temple. When he was healed, he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.") Is there something that makes you feel like an outsider in any part of your life? What would healing look like for you?

Holy Spirit, let no one be excluded from your love. Help us invite others into your presence. Amen.

Tuesday, June 11: Acts 4:1-12

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. Have you ever felt "inspired" to do or say something? ("inspire" literally means breathed into... like the Spirit has breathed into you.)

Holy Spirit, breathe life into us and empower us to do your work in our world. Amen.

Wednesday, June 12: Acts 4:13-31

The disciples prayed for boldness, and God helped them speak the word of God with boldness. What would it look like for you be bold in the name of Jesus?

Holy Spirit, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness. Amen.

Thursday, June 13: Acts 4:32-5:11

“And great grace was upon them all.” What would it look like to be in a community of great grace? What would that free us for?

Holy Spirit, wrap us in your grace, and teach us to be a community of great grace. Amen.

Friday, June 14: Acts 5:12-16

This was a time of great signs and wonders. Have we left those times behind or can you see signs of God working in this place and time? Keep your eyes open this weekend for signs, wonders and surprises that God may bring forth.

Holy Spirit, surprise me today. Amen.

Monday, June 17: Acts 5:17-42

“If this plan is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them.” How do these words make you feel about the world today – Hopeful for what God is doing? Fearful for what might come? Doubtful if the words are true? Curious about what God may be up to?

Holy Spirit – help us trust that, whatever you are doing in us and in this world, it will lead to life and love. Amen.

Tuesday, June 18: Acts 6:1-7

This is the first differentiation of roles within the Christian community. What role do you envision for yourself in serving God and God’s people, in either church, home, work or community? (What passions and gifts to you have?)

Holy Spirit, guide us into service, so your word and love can be spread. Amen.

Wednesday June 19: Acts 6:8-15

Some who belonged to the synagogue were afraid that Stephen would change the temple and customs. What do you fear will change about the church in the years ahead? How might the Spirit be working in changes?

Holy Spirit, help us to trust that you are leading us into the future, even when things are changing. Amen.

Thursday, June 20: Acts 7:1-16

Stephen begins a long speech that recaps God’s work through history. What does your own history teach you about God? How might God have been working in your parents and grandparents’ lives?

Holy Spirit, we can’t always see you. Help us trust that you are working in all of history. Amen.

Friday, June 21: Acts 7:17-34

Stephen continues his journey through history with the story of Moses. At the end of this section Moses hears God saying, “I have come down to rescue [my people]. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.” Have you ever seen God working through another person? When?

Holy Spirit, send us as we are needed to do your work in this world. Amen.

Monday, June 24: Acts 7:35-53

At the end of Stephen's speech, we hear his pain and disappointment with his own people. (Remember, Acts was written during a time when Christians were being persecuted as an unwanted Jewish sect.) If Stephen were to speak to Christians today, what might his speech include? Disappointment? Hope? Anger? Encouragements?

Holy Spirit, help us be open to hearing the words of your prophets, especially those speaking today. Amen.

Tuesday, June 25: Acts 7:54-8:3

Stephen was the first martyr. The word "martyr" is Greek for "witness." What does Stephen witness as he dies? What does his death tell others? What does your life tell others?

Holy Spirit, help us live a life that speaks of your presence and power in this world. Amen.

Wednesday, June 26: Acts 8:4-25

Simon wanted to control the power of the Holy Spirit. In what ways do we want to control the power of God? In what ways are we open to the Spirit's gifts even when they are not what we expect?

Holy Spirit, open us to receive your gifts, whatever they may be. Amen.

Thursday, June 27: Acts 8:26-40

The Spirit of the Lord guided Phillip but didn't tell him what to say or do. Is it possible today to be guided into situations by God? Why or why not? If yes, have you felt the Spirit's guiding?

Holy Spirit, speak in ways we can listen in this day. Amen.

Friday, June 28: Acts 9: 1-9

Have you ever experienced an event that completely changed your thinking or the direction of your life? Was the Spirit in the midst of it somehow? If so, how?

Holy Spirit, life changes are hard and often lonely. Be with us through all of life in your power and love. Amen.

Monday, July 1: Acts 9:10-22

Think of the courage demonstrated in this reading: Saul facing his life, Ananias going to Straight Street, the community accepting and baptizing Saul. What courageous steps can you imagine for our faith community? What courageous steps can you imagine for yourself?

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to take courageous steps in the days ahead. Amen

Tuesday, July 2: Acts 9:23-31

Saul quickly finds that following the Way is not easy. What do you think the most difficult thing about following Jesus?

Holy Spirit, give us strength to follow Jesus, even when it is hard or confusing. Amen.

Wednesday, July 3: Acts 9:32-42

Two healing stories: Lydia, a woman who gave much in her life, and Aeneas, who could do nothing for 8 years. What does that tell you about the grace and gifts of God?

Holy Spirit, you come regardless of our ability to give back. Thank you. Amen.

Thursday, July 4: Acts 10:1-16

Peter learned early what was clean and unclean. But God invites him to set that aside. Can you think of anything in your life or faith that it's now time to set aside?

Holy Spirit, help us grow in our life and faith. Amen.

Friday, July 5: Acts 10:17-33

Both Peter and Cornelius told stories of what they had experienced. What story can you tell of recently encountering God?

Holy Spirit, work in my life today. Amen.

Monday, July 8: Acts 10:34-48

Peter humbly tells the story of Jesus. If you were asked to tell about Jesus, what would you say? How would you tell about Jesus working in your life?

Holy Spirit, give us the words and the courage to tell what we know about Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday, July 9: Acts 11:1-18

Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit working in you? In an idea that came, or the right words to say, or a coincidence or opportunity that appeared? What would it be like for the Holy Spirit to work in a whole community?

Holy Spirit, come to us. Work in us. Make us your own. Amen.

Wednesday, July 10: Acts 11:19-30

Many new things are happening! Greek speakers are discovering Jesus, new people are turning to the Lord, disciples are called Christians for the first time. It seems very fast and very new. But remember that these things are happening over years. (The whole book of Acts takes about 40 years from beginning to end.) As you think back over the past 10 years, what has changed in the church? Where have you seen God working? Holy Spirit, come quickly or slowly... just come. Amen.

Thursday, July 11: Acts 12:1-19

In this fun and crazy story, it is clear that the Holy Spirit is working, but no one can believe it (even Peter!) We, too, have trouble believing that the Spirit is working among us. When is the last time the Holy Spirit surprised you?

Holy Spirit, help us trust that you continue to work among us. Amen.

Friday, July 12: Acts 12:20-13:3

Saul and Barnabas are set apart for the work to which they were called. What work are you called to in the world (be it paid, volunteer, family, neighborhood)? Can you imagine yourself blessed to do that work in the name of Christ?

Holy Spirit, send us out to do the work for which you have called each of us. Amen.

Monday, July 15: Acts 13:4-12

In Paphos, they met a magician. Wealthy Romans loved keeping magicians around to help them make important decisions. (Though Paul refuses to let the magician advise them against Christ!). How do you make important decisions? Do you ever ask God for guidance?

Holy Spirit, guide us as individuals and a congregation to follow God's good will. Amen.

July 16 – September 6 coming soon!