

**October 17, 2021**

**The Acts of the Holy Spirit, Week 3**

Welcome

**Thrive**

Oh, Oh  
Here in this worn and weary land  
Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water  
We never will run dry  
So living water flowing through  
God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls  
With one desire

Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

Oh, Oh  
Into Your Word we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out  
To show them who You are  
So living water flowing through  
God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls  
With one desire

Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just  
survive  
We were made to thrive

Joy unspeakable  
Faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable  
Anything is possible  
(REPEAT 3 Xs)

Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just  
survive  
We were made to thrive  
Oh oh, Oh oh  
We were made to thrive

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## Revive Us Again

We praise Thee O God  
For the Son of Thy love  
For Jesus Who died  
And is now gone above

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

We praise Thee O God  
For the spirit of light  
Who has shown us our Savior and  
Scattered the night

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

All glory and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain  
Who has born all our sins  
And has cleansed every stain

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

All glory and praise  
To the God of all grace  
Who has bought us and sought us  
And guided our ways

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

Revive us again  
Fill each heart with Thy love  
May each soul be rekindled  
With fire from above

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Hallelujah amen  
Hallelujah Thine the glory  
Revive us again

Revive us again

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## Prayer

### Gathering Song: Facing A Task Unfinished (We Go To All The World)

Facing a task unfinished  
That drives us to our knees  
A need that undiminished  
Rebukes our slothful ease  
We who rejoice to know Thee  
Renew before Thy throne  
The solemn pledge we owe Thee  
To go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee  
Hold their unhindered sway  
Where forces that defied Thee  
Defy Thee still today  
With none to heed their crying  
For life and love and light  
Unnumbered souls are dying  
And pass into the night

We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ the Lord

We bear the torch that flaming  
Fell from the hands of those  
Who gave their lives proclaiming  
That Jesus died and rose  
Ours is the same commission  
The same glad message ours  
Fired by the same ambition  
To Thee we yield our powers

We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ the Lord

O Father who sustained them  
O Spirit who inspired

Saviour whose love constrained them  
To toil with zeal untired  
From cowardice defend us  
From lethargy awake  
Forth on Thine errands send us  
To labor for Thy sake

We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ the Lord

We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ the Lord

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### Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sins to the One who welcomes us with an open heart.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God, our comforter,

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. We have received your Spirit and power to witness, and keep it to ourselves. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors and share you with them. Amen**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus. God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Kyrie (tune: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”)

A: For God’s peace and for salvation,

**C: Lord, have mercy; hear our prayer.**

A: For God’s peace in all creation,

**C: Lord, have mercy; hear our prayer.**

A: For the tasks to which you send us, bless your children ev’rywhere;

**C: Lord, have mercy; hear our prayer.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us. Let us all your goodness share.

**C: Lord, have mercy; hear our prayer.**

## Hymn of Praise – Glory to God – (tune: “Crown Him with Many Crowns”)

**Glory to God on high, and to the earth God’s peace!**

**With thanks God’s name we glorify; let gladsome praise increase!**

**With angel hosts we sing your holy name to bless,**

**Almighty Father, heav’nly King, enthroned in holiness.**

**Jesus, the Father’s Son, the Lamb for sinners slain,**

**Ascended to your heav’nly throne, o’er all the earth you reign.**

**Have mercy, Lord, we pray; your steadfast love declare.**

**The sin of all you take away; receive our ardent prayer.**

**For you, O Christ, alone – you only are the Lord;**

**You only are the Holy One by earth and heav’n adored.**

**To all eternity you with the Spirit live**

**In God the Father’s majesty. To God all glory give!**

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God,

**C: You have created us to live in loving community with one another, and empowered us to disciple new disciples. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Lessons

### Acts 6:1-8:1

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup> And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

#### Stephen Is Seized

<sup>8</sup> And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup> Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” <sup>12</sup> And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, <sup>13</sup> and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” <sup>15</sup> And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these accusations true?”

<sup>2</sup> This was Stephen’s reply:

“Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. <sup>3</sup> God told him, ‘Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.’ <sup>4</sup> So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live.

<sup>5</sup> “But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole land would belong to Abraham

and his descendants—even though he had no children yet. <sup>6</sup> God also told him that his descendants would live in a foreign land, where they would be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. <sup>7</sup> ‘But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,’ God said, ‘and in the end they will come out and worship me here in this place.’

<sup>8</sup> “God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision at that time. So when Abraham became the father of Isaac, he circumcised him on the eighth day. And the practice was continued when Isaac became the father of Jacob, and when Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs of the Israelite nation.

<sup>9</sup> “These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his troubles. And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace.

<sup>11</sup> “But a famine came upon Egypt and Canaan. There was great misery, and our ancestors ran out of food. <sup>12</sup> Jacob heard that there was still grain in Egypt, so he sent his sons—our ancestors—to buy some. <sup>13</sup> The second time they went, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and they were introduced to Pharaoh. <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and all his relatives to come to Egypt, seventy-five persons in all. <sup>15</sup> So Jacob went to Egypt. He died there, as did our ancestors. <sup>16</sup> Their bodies were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb Abraham had bought for a certain price from Hamor’s sons in Shechem.

<sup>17</sup> “As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. <sup>18</sup> But then a new king came to the throne of Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph. <sup>19</sup> This king exploited our people and oppressed them, forcing parents to abandon their newborn babies so they would die.

<sup>20</sup> “At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God’s eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. <sup>21</sup> When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. <sup>22</sup> Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.

<sup>23</sup> “One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. <sup>24</sup> He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man’s defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup> Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn’t.

<sup>26</sup> “The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. ‘Men,’ he said, ‘you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?’

<sup>27</sup> “But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us?’ he asked. <sup>28</sup> ‘Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?’ <sup>29</sup> When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There his two sons were born.

<sup>30</sup> “Forty years later, in the desert near Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight. As he went to take a closer look, the voice of the LORD called out to him, <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ Moses shook with terror and did not dare to look.

<sup>33</sup> “Then the LORD said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. <sup>34</sup> I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groans and have come down to rescue them. Now go, for I am sending you back to Egypt.’

<sup>35</sup> “So God sent back the same man his people had previously rejected when they demanded, ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us?’ Through the angel who appeared to him in the burning bush, God sent Moses to be their ruler and savior. <sup>36</sup> And by means of many wonders and miraculous signs, he led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through the wilderness for forty years.

<sup>37</sup> “Moses himself told the people of Israel, ‘God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people.’ <sup>38</sup> Moses was with our ancestors, the assembly of God’s people in the wilderness, when the angel spoke to him at Mount Sinai. And there Moses received life-giving words to pass on to us.

<sup>39</sup> “But our ancestors refused to listen to Moses. They rejected him and wanted to return to Egypt. <sup>40</sup> They told Aaron, ‘Make us some gods who can lead us, for we don’t know what has become of this Moses, who brought us out of Egypt.’ <sup>41</sup> So they made an idol shaped like a calf, and they sacrificed to it and celebrated over this thing they had made. <sup>42</sup> Then God turned away from them and abandoned them to serve the stars of heaven as their gods! In the book of the prophets it is written,

‘Was it to me you were bringing sacrifices and offerings  
during those forty years in the wilderness, Israel?

<sup>43</sup> No, you carried your pagan gods—  
the shrine of Molech,  
the star of your god Rephan,  
and the images you made to worship them.

So I will send you into exile  
as far away as Babylon.’

<sup>44</sup> “Our ancestors carried the Tabernacle with them through the wilderness. It was constructed according to the plan God had shown to Moses. <sup>45</sup> Years later,

when Joshua led our ancestors in battle against the nations that God drove out of this land, the Tabernacle was taken with them into their new territory. And it stayed there until the time of King David.

<sup>46</sup>“David found favor with God and asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who actually built it. <sup>48</sup> However, the Most High doesn’t live in temples made by human hands. As the prophet says,

<sup>49</sup> ‘Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.

Could you build me a temple as good as that?’  
asks the LORD.

‘Could you build me such a resting place?

<sup>50</sup> Didn’t my hands make both heaven and earth?’

<sup>51</sup> “You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you!

<sup>52</sup> Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. <sup>53</sup> You deliberately disobeyed God’s law, even though you received it from the hands of angels.”

<sup>54</sup> The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen’s accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand. <sup>56</sup> And he told them, “Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand!”

<sup>57</sup> Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him <sup>58</sup> and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.

8:1 Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

Message: “Courage in the Face of Persecution”

## Message Hymn: **WOV 731 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light,  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me  
home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall.

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me  
home.

When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand.  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me  
home.

*Tune: George N. Allen; Music: Thomas A. Dorsey  
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## **Baptism: Margarita Janini**

### **Praise Song: WOV 779 On Eagle's Wings**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in this shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!"

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of my hand."

Snares of the fowler  
Will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under God's wings your refuge,  
With faithfulness your shield.

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of my hand."

For to the angels God's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

"And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of my hand."

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## Passing the Peace

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Announcements

## Prayers of the Church

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

A: ...Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Prayers are concluded with*

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

**C: Amen**

Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**Closing Song: LBW 439 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit;

Oh, what needless pain we bear—

All because we do not carry

Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you;

You will find a solace there.

*Tune: Charles C. Converse; Text: Joseph Scriven*

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Sending

A: Go in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A: Share the Good News!

**C: Yes, Lord, we will!**