

July 27, 2025 – Holy Communion Service

“With One Accord in Prayer”

Acts 1:12-14

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Scripture Passage

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Introduction: “Too many captains steer the ship to the mountains.”

Suddenly to begin, but—everyone, do you know the proverb: “Too many captains steer the ship to the mountains”? It expresses the idea that if there are too many people giving instructions in a matter, then even a ship meant to sail the sea may end up climbing a mountain, so far off course it will go. No matter how excellent a person may lead, if each person’s heart is scattered, the original goal will never be accomplished. When people gather, we can see how important it is to move forward with hearts united.

To be of one heart—this is something equally important in the church. Worship is something offered to God, and so during this time, our hearts must be turned toward God. We are to fix our hearts on God alone. In prayer, in praise, in the reading of the Word, our hearts become one. This morning, we will observe the Holy Communion. It is the time to remember our Savior. There is only one Savior. If we are remembering Jesus, then our hearts will become one. And so, once more, I would like us to confirm, through the disciples of Jesus, how our hearts can be united as one.

Main Point 1: The Former State of the Disciples

In verse 13, which we read earlier, we see the names of Jesus’ disciples, except for the traitor Judas. Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of

James. It says that they were together here, praying with one accord, together with the family of Jesus. Gathering together, and praying with one heart—how wonderful that is. We could say it is truly the fitting appearance of Jesus’ disciples.

This scene of them gathering and praying with one heart happens right before the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples at Pentecost. Pentecost is the event that took place 50 days after Jesus’ death. Now then, how were they 50 days earlier? (Let us look at) [Mark 14:46-52](#):

46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48 “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?”

49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

50 Then everyone deserted him and fled.

When Jesus was seized, they abandoned Him. They fled. Because their own lives were in danger. Far from being united, they were scattered. That young man in verse 51—was he Peter, the most fervent of them all? Even he, who had boldly claimed, “Even if others abandon You, I never will,” threw off his garment and fled naked, desperately. Scattered indeed. Mark’s Gospel also records the disciples’ state when they heard the news of Jesus’ resurrection. [Mark 16:9-13](#):

9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.

10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.

11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

12 Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.

13 These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

The ones who had abandoned and fled from Jesus were seen gathered again. However, it seems they had not gathered in faith or in repentance. As verses 11

and 13 state, they did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus—they could not believe. Perhaps they had gathered to talk about what to do next, how they should act, how they could solve the problems of their current situation. Their anxiety and fear remained unresolved. That was the state they were in at the time. Though gathered, their hearts were still divided.

## Main Point 2: Encountering the Risen Jesus

Let us once again look at the appearance of the disciples as recorded in the book of Acts. They were all gathered in the same place, and were praying with one accord. Furthermore, as we look at the latter part of Acts chapter 1, we see that they bore witness to Jesus, and also chose a new disciple. There is no longer fear among them. There is no anxiety or distress. They were now focused on how they would proclaim the Word to others. They were pouring their whole effort into listening to what God was speaking to them.

What was it that changed them? In these fifty days, had the environment surrounding them changed? Had the threats that frightened them disappeared? No. That was not the case. Their environment had not changed in the slightest. Only one thing—They encountered the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 1:3–9

3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

To encounter the risen Lord Jesus. To receive the risen Lord Jesus as one's own Lord. Herein lies the reason why their distress, fear, and anxiety were removed, and why they were filled with the Holy Spirit. It was not because of any change in their circumstances. Furthermore, it must be said that the fact that Jesus was no longer physically with them was the same as it had been fifty days prior. Neither their environment changed, nor was Jesus at their side—this fact remained unchanged. But at the moment when one encounters the risen Lord Jesus Christ, people gather, they pray with one heart, they prepare to proclaim the Word, and they are no longer held captive by worry or fear.

To all of you who are walking the life of faith—We too are people who have encountered, and are encountering, the risen Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we too are those who, in Christ Jesus, can become one in heart. As such people, what kind of Jesus are we seeing? As we walk with Jesus, in what way is our heart being united as one? Our eyes look at the environment in which we are placed. Our eyes see the distress we are facing. Our hearts are corroded by the pain we are bearing. Even if we know Jesus, our hearts may be scattered. Even if we are praying together, there may be times we cannot join our hearts. Even when we raise our voices in praise together, perhaps there are times when our hearts are not united. In such moments, can we truly say we are encountering the risen Jesus?

We who are gathered in this place of worship must not forget, above all, that we are those who have encountered the risen Lord Jesus. To us has been given the hope of resurrection. The risen Lord Jesus, who blessed the disciples, is the One who unites our hearts. When the joy of encountering the risen Lord Jesus fills us, then not fear, not anxiety, not distress, but peace—the peace of offering prayer to the Lord with one heart—will be given to us.

## Conclusion

The reason Jesus Christ came into this world was to save us. We, who were by birth under God's wrath due to sin, and had no other possibility than death, were given the torn flesh and shed blood of Jesus Christ. Through that, we were able to gain eternal life from death. We gained resurrection from destruction. We were

raised to life with Jesus and became able to have fellowship with God. We, who had been walking toward destruction in our sin, were people who had no connection whatsoever with God. We were merely those walking in darkness. To us was given light—and that is Jesus Christ. That light speaks to us now, as we prepare to partake in the Holy Communion. “Do this in remembrance of Me.” **Luke 22:19-20**

**19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”**

**20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.**

On the cross, Jesus’ flesh was torn, and His blood was poured out. The cross is the symbol of death. It is the symbol of sin, the symbol of suffering, the symbol of shame, and above all, the symbol of defeat. And Jesus says to His disciples, “Remember this torn flesh and blood on the cross.” Why? Because that becomes the new covenant. Because the symbol of death, the symbol of sin, the symbol of suffering, the symbol of shame—all of these become something completely new by the fact that our Savior Jesus Christ bore them.

I pray that our hearts may be made one. I pray that we may remember Jesus, who had His flesh torn and blood poured out for our sake. I sincerely pray that we may become those who, with one heart, offer prayer to the Lord.