

## **Acts 2:14a, 36-41<sup>ii</sup>**

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 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. 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." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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### **<sup>ii</sup> About the First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

Today's reading is the first of the major summaries to link together the specific events and teachings of Luke's narrative. These verses give an overview of the Church's life and growth. Verse 42 mentions four aspects of that life. The "apostles' teaching" was carried on both in public and within the community. Likewise the community continued to offer "the prayers" both at the temple and in the community.

The "fellowship" (Greek, *koinonia*) was apparent especially in the sharing of resources. This probably meant not an automatic divestiture of all possessions, but the placing of one's assets at the disposal of the community to be used as needed. The "breaking of the bread" probably indicates a common meal that included the Lord's Supper at which the table-fellowship of the apostles with the risen Lord was extended to the community.