

Acts 2:42-47ⁱⁱ

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

ⁱⁱ About the First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Peter concludes his sermon with the proclamation that the crucified Jesus has been exalted as Lord and Messiah. Now the saving name is Jesus Christ. In response to the plea of the crowd, Peter outlines the way of salvation.

The first step is repentance (Greek, *metanoia*, meaning "change of heart, conversion"). The second step is baptism "in the name" (v. 38) that brings salvation. Those who submit to repentance and baptism receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit, who provides the fundamental principle of life in the Christian community. Christian life together is characterized by common sharing of goods, daily prayer in the temple and breaking bread "with glad and generous hearts" (v. 46).