

## **Acts 19:1-7<sup>iv</sup>**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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### **<sup>iv</sup> About the Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7**

This reading describes the creation of a new Christian community in Ephesus. It echoes important themes from Luke's version of Jesus' baptism and the Pentecost foundation of the early Church. John's baptism only foreshadows "baptism with the Holy Spirit" (Luke 3:16).

Just as God's Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus (Luke 3:22; 4:18; Acts 10:38) and upon the Pentecost community (Acts 2) to empower them for ministry, so now the Spirit falls on those prepared by John's baptism, creating a new community from 12 disciples and empowering them with gifts for ministry: tongues for praise and prophecy for witness.