

## Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

#### First New Testament Reading

##### Acts 2:42–47

##### English Standard Version Scripture Text

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe<sup>4</sup> came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and ibreaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

##### Historical Context

Acts 2:42–47 provides a snapshot of the earliest Christian community following Pentecost. New believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer, forming a distinctive community shaped by the resurrection of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

##### Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 42 – The early church is marked by devotion to apostolic teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

Verse 43 – Awe comes upon the people as signs and wonders accompany the apostles' ministry.

Verses 44–45 – Believers share possessions, reflecting unity and concern for one another.

Verse 46 – Daily worship and fellowship characterize their communal life.

Verse 47 – The community experiences favor and growth as the Lord adds to their number.

## Theological Themes

- The life of the early Church
- Fellowship and shared life
- Worship and devotion
- Growth through God's work

## Epistle Reading

### 1 Peter 2:19–25

#### English Standard Version Scripture Text

<sup>9</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

#### Historical Context

Peter addresses Christians living under social pressure and sometimes unjust treatment. He encourages them to endure suffering faithfully, following the example of Christ, who suffered without sin and entrusted Himself to God.

#### Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 19 – Enduring unjust suffering for God's sake is commendable.

Verse 20 – Suffering for doing good reflects Christ-like character.

Verse 21 – Christ's suffering serves as an example for believers to follow.

Verse 22 – Christ is sinless, yet endures suffering without deceit.

Verse 23 – Jesus entrusts Himself to God rather than retaliating.

Verse 24 – Christ bears our sins, enabling us to live in righteousness.

Verse 25 – Believers return to the Shepherd and Overseer of their souls.

### **Theological Themes**

- Christ as the model of suffering
- Righteous endurance
- Redemption through Christ's sacrifice
- Trust in God's justice

### **Thoughts to Consider - 04/26/26**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter highlights both the life of the early Church and the example of Christ's suffering. The community described in Acts reflects a Spirit-filled life marked by unity, worship, and generosity. Peter reminds believers that following Christ includes enduring hardship with faith and trust. Together these readings call the Church to live faithfully, both in community and in personal witness.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What elements of the early church in Acts 2 should be most evident in churches today?
2. The early believers shared their possessions. What does this teach about Christian community and responsibility?
3. Peter speaks about enduring unjust suffering. Why is this so difficult, and how can believers respond faithfully?
4. How does Christ's example of suffering shape our response to hardship?
5. What does it mean to live under Christ as the 'Shepherd and Overseer' of our souls?