

## Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

#### New Testament Reading

#### Acts 1:12–26

#### English Standard Version Scripture Text

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office."

<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## Historical Context

Acts 1 takes place in the days between the ascension of Christ and Pentecost. The disciples gather in prayer and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit while addressing the need to replace Judas among the Twelve.

## Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 12–14 – The disciples return to Jerusalem and devote themselves to prayer in unity.

Verses 15–20 – Peter interprets Judas’s betrayal in light of Scripture.

Verses 21–23 – Qualifications are established for apostolic witness.

Verses 24–26 – The community prays for guidance and selects Matthias.

## Theological Themes

- Prayerful dependence
- Apostolic witness
- God’s sovereignty in leadership
- Preparation for mission

## Epistle Reading

### 1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

#### English Standard Version Scripture Text

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And <sup>11</sup> after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### Historical Context

Peter writes to believers facing suffering and encourages faithful endurance rooted in hope and trust in God.

### Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

4:12–13 – Trials are participation in Christ’s sufferings.

4:14–16 – Suffering for Christ is a blessing.

4:17–19 – Faithful endurance is required.

5:6–7 – Humility and trust replace anxiety.

5:8–9 – Remain vigilant against spiritual opposition.

5:10–11 – God promises restoration.

### Theological Themes

- Suffering and perseverance
- Humility and trust
- Spiritual vigilance
- Hope of restoration

### **Concluding Reflection**

This Sunday highlights life between ascension and Pentecost—waiting, praying, and enduring. God prepares His people through both patience and trial.

### **Thoughts to Consider**

1. What does waiting in prayer teach us?
2. Why replace Judas before Pentecost?
3. Why are trials surprising to us?
4. How does humility address anxiety?
5. What gives confidence in restoration?