



### Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>

May the angels of heaven protect us this day and circle us with the fragrance of peace. May Christ our Lord and loving friend protect us this day and circle us with affection and love.

May the spirit of truth, who dwells in our hearts, protect us this day and circle us and fill us with joy. Amen.

### Lectionary Reading Acts 11:19 – 30

#### **Paul in Ephesus**

**Act 19:1** While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul travelled through the interior of the province and arrived in Ephesus. There he found some disciples

**Act 19:2** and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" "We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit," they answered.

**Act 19:3** "Well, then, what kind of baptism did you receive?" Paul asked. "The baptism of John," they answered.

**Act 19:4** Paul said, "The baptism of John was for those who turned from their sins; and he told the people of Israel to believe in the one who was coming after him—that is, in Jesus."

**Act 19:5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Act 19:6** Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in strange tongues and also proclaimed God's message.

**Act 19:7** They were about twelve men in all.

**Act 19:8** Paul went into the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly with the people, holding discussions with them and trying to convince them about the Kingdom of God.

**Act 19:9** But some of them were stubborn and would not believe, and before the whole group they said evil things about the Way of the Lord. So Paul left them and took the believers with him, and every day he held discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

**Act 19:10** This went on for two years, so that all the people who lived in the province of Asia, both Jews and Gentiles, heard the word of the Lord.

### **The Sons of Sceva**

**Act 19:11** God was performing unusual miracles through Paul.

**Act 19:12** Even handkerchiefs and aprons he had used were taken to the sick, and their diseases were driven away, and the evil spirits would go out of them.

**Act 19:13** Some Jews who travelled around and drove out evil spirits also tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to do this. They said to the evil spirits, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches."

**Act 19:14** Seven brothers, who were the sons of a Jewish High Priest named Sceva, were doing this.

**Act 19:15** But the evil spirit said to them, "I know Jesus, and I know about Paul; but you—who are you?"

**Act 19:16** The man who had the evil spirit in him attacked them with such violence that he overpowered them all. They ran away from his house, wounded and with their clothes torn off.

**Act 19:17** All the Jews and Gentiles who lived in Ephesus heard about this; they were all filled with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was given greater honour.

**Act 19:18** Many of the believers came, publicly admitting and revealing what they had done.

**Act 19:19** Many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in public. They added up the price of the books, and the total came to fifty thousand silver coins.

**Act 19:20** In this powerful way the word of the Lord kept spreading and growing stronger.

### **A Riot at Ephesus**

**Act 19:21** After these things had happened, Paul made up his mind to travel through Macedonia and Achaia and go on to Jerusalem. "After I go there," he said, "I must also see Rome."

**Act 19:22** So he sent Timothy and Erastus, two of his helpers, to Macedonia, while he spent more time in the province of Asia.

**Act 19:23** It was at this time that there was serious trouble in Ephesus because of the Way of the Lord.

**Act 19:24** A certain silversmith named Demetrius made silver models of the temple of the goddess Artemis, and his business brought a great deal of profit to the workers.

**Act 19:25** So he called them all together with others whose work was like theirs and said to them, "Men, you know that our prosperity comes from this work.

**Act 19:26** Now, you can see and hear for yourselves what this fellow Paul is doing. He says that hand-made gods are not gods at all, and he has succeeded in convincing many people, both here in Ephesus and in nearly the whole province of Asia.

**Act 19:27** There is the danger, then, that this business of ours will get a bad name. Not only that, but there is also the danger that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will come to mean nothing and that her greatness will be destroyed—the goddess worshiped by everyone in Asia and in all the world!”

**Act 19:28** As the crowd heard these words, they became furious and started shouting, “Great is Artemis of Ephesus!”

**Act 19:29** The uproar spread throughout the whole city. The mob grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus, two Macedonians who were traveling with Paul, and rushed with them to the theatre.

**Act 19:30** Paul himself wanted to go before the crowd, but the believers would not let him.

### **Singing the Faith No. 407**

- 1 Hear the call of the kingdom,  
lift your eyes to the King ;  
let his song rise within you  
as a fragrant offering  
of how God, rich in mercy,  
came in Christ to redeem  
all who trust in his unfailing grace.
- 2 Hear the call of the kingdom  
to be children of light  
with the mercy of heaven,  
the humility of Christ ;  
walking justly before him,  
loving all that is right,  
that the life of Christ may shine through us.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world,*

*filled with passion, filled with power to  
proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name.*

- 3 Hear the call of the kingdom  
to reach out to the lost  
with the Father’s compassion  
in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness,  
and a hope yet to come :  
let the nations put their trust in him.

*King of heaven, we will answer the call ...*

**CCLi No. 287592**

Keith Getty (b.1974), Kristyn Getty (b.1980) and Stuart Townend (b.1963)

### **Psalm 112**

#### **The Righteous Will Never Be Moved**

**Psalm 112:1** Praise the LORD! Happy is the person who honors the LORD, who takes pleasure in obeying his commands.

**Psalm 112:2** The good man's children will be powerful in the land; his descendants will be blessed.

**Psalm 112:3** His family will be wealthy and rich, and he will be prosperous forever.

**Psalm 112:4** Light shines in the darkness for good people, for those who are merciful, kind, and just.

**Psalm 112:5** Happy is the person who is generous with his loans, who runs his business honestly.

**Psalm 112:6** A good person will never fail; he will always be remembered.

**Psalm 112:7** He is not afraid of receiving bad news; his faith is strong, and he trusts in the LORD.

**Psalm 112:8** He is not worried or afraid; he is certain to see his enemies defeated.

**Psalm 112:9** He gives generously to the needy, and his kindness never fails; he will be powerful and respected.

**Psalm 112:10** The wicked see this and are angry; they glare in hate and disappear; their hopes are gone forever.

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

I ask God to bless you, to guide you, to keep you safe, to give you peace, to give you joy and love at all times. Take Care. As the dawn breaks into a beautiful sunrise, May God shower you with his blessings of love and lead you always on the right path. Amen



**BE A BARNABAS**  
**Acts 9:26-27**