

of such themes. Luke uses repetition also.

### Pentecost

According to Acts, after the Ascension of Jesus, the apostles gathered in an upper room at Jerusalem with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and with other believers. They chose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot. Their misgivings on how such a tiny group of unimportant people could make disciples of all nations vanished in a mysterious outpouring of strength and wisdom, which Acts describes as a strong driving wind and tongues of fire. These signs indicated the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had promised to send to his followers as their advocate and helper. Led by Peter, the apostles began to preach to the crowds assembled in Jerusalem.

Peter announced that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and had been raised from the dead. Three thousand were baptized. The believers devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the breaking of bread (Eucharist), to prayer, to a communal life, and even to sharing of possessions. Their manner of life attracted others to them. But they continued to worship in the Temple and saw themselves as Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah. (Acts 1 - 2)

### Miracles and evangelization

Soon the miracles which had marked the ministry of Jesus began to occur through his disciples. Peter and John continued to preach the Gospel even after being arrested for healing in Christ's name.

As the number of Christ's disciples grew, Hellenist believers (probably Palestinian Jews who spoke Greek) complained some of their poor were being overlooked. The apostles, by

by prayer and laying on of hands, commissioned seven assistants, called deacons, to care for the neglected. Soon the deacons were preaching the Good News. (Acts 3 - 9)