



**Sunday Service**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**  
**Pentecost**

**Dangerous Faith (6)**  
**“They were called Christian”**  
**Acts 11 : 19 - 26**

**Introduction**

Welcome on this Day of Pentecost to our Praise and Prayer from St Peter's. We see in our next study from The Book of Acts why we need the Holy Spirit and the consequences of living as disciples of Jesus, Christians, in a broken and confused world.

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and to know your presence in all that we do for your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Bible reading**

<sup>19</sup> Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. <sup>20</sup> Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11 : 19 - 26

**Talk : “They were called Christian”**

**Prayers**

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew our world through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, help us not to be afraid to stand out from the crowd and to be ready to share our faith with compassion, truth and love. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to live to the values of your Kingdom rather than the self-focussed values of the world around us. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**Blessing**

And now may the Holy Spirit make us strong in faith and love, defend us on every side and guide us in truth and peace; and may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us now, and for ever more. Amen.

This Service may be accessed from the Church YouTube Channel :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbK-QzhYCbTnOpdekn4DXA>

or the Church website : <http://stpeters-elworth.org.uk/>