

Readers Theater

Life in Community

Roles:

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Onlooker 1,
Onlooker 2, Peter

*After Pentecost, amazing things began to happen
to the early Christian community.*

Narrator 1: The time had passed when the Church revealed herself at Pentecost.

Narrator 2: Many remembered the day in Jerusalem when the Apostles and Jesus' mother, Mary, were in one place together. All would never forget the sound of the heavenly noise that was like a strong driving wind.

Narrator 3: Others recalled that there were tongues of fire that rested on each of the Apostles and that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Onlooker 1: That was the day Jesus' followers came out of where they were staying. Outside, the crowd was enormous, what with this loud noise. There were devout Jews from every nation.

Onlooker 2: There also were Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome. There were both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs. Just about everyone from many nations was there.

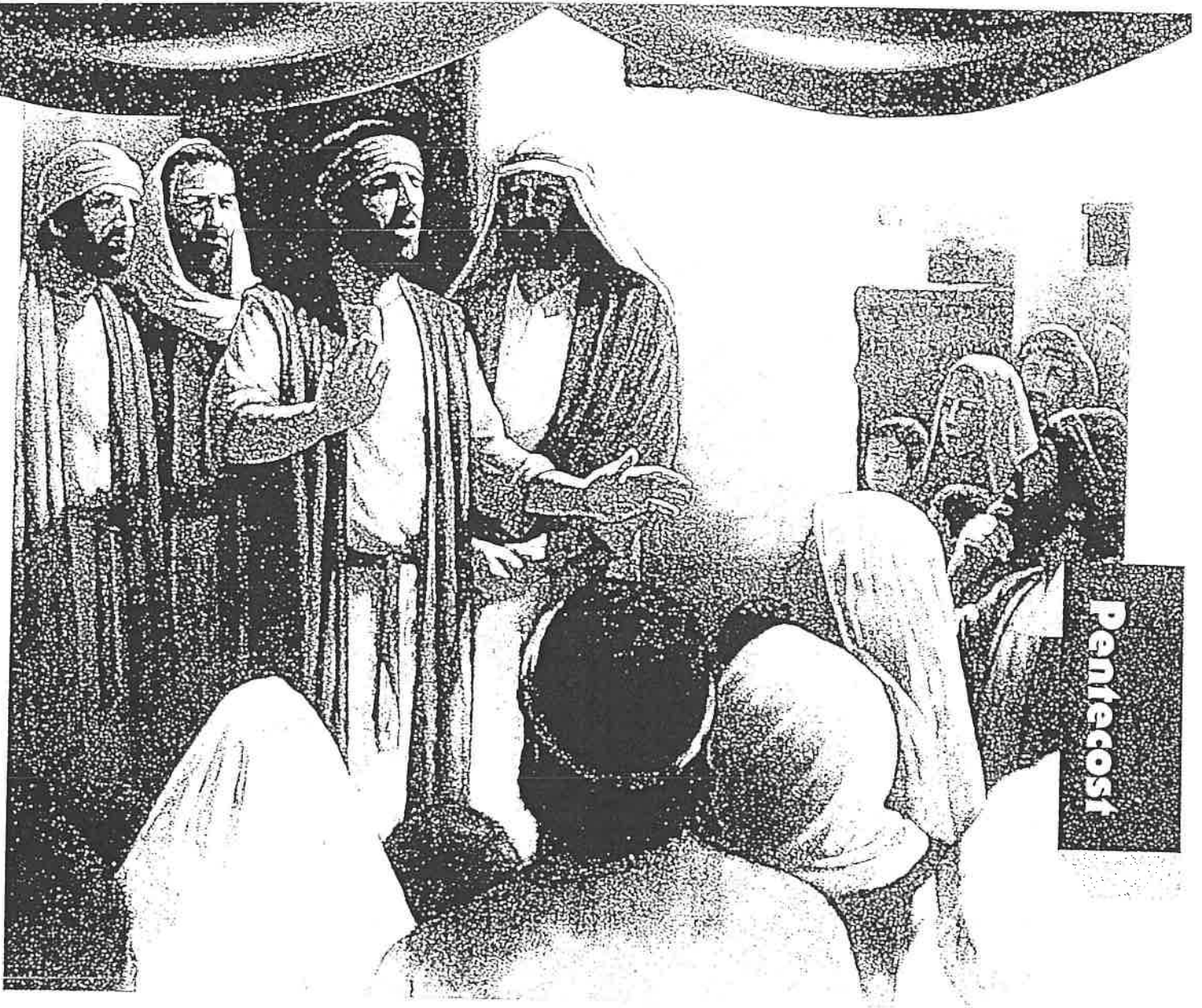
Onlooker 1: Here we all were from different parts of the world, yet the Apostles were speaking to each group in its own language. We were astounded! "What does this mean?" (Acts of the Apostles 2:12)

Onlooker 2: Peter stood up and spoke.

Peter: "God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. . . . Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts of the Apostles 2:32, 36).

Narrator 2: After Peter spoke, the crowd wanted to know what to do.

Peter: Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.



Pentecost

Narrator 3: Thousands did. All received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Narrator 1: But Pentecost did not end there. Those early followers of Jesus Christ lived out their newfound faith in the Risen Lord. What a wonderful time it was! They spent time learning the teachings of the Apostles and telling others about Jesus. They developed communities in which daily life was devoted to the breaking of the bread. They lived out a deeply felt prayer life.

Narrator 2: Many sold their property and gave away their possessions to share with the community. They ate their meals with joy, praising God in the highest. Soon, their neighbors and even strangers began admiring their sincerity and good will.

Onlookers 1 and 2: “And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (Acts of the Apostles 2:47).