

Reading

Acts 8:1, 4, 14-17

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>1</sup> A bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem,  
and everyone except the apostles  
fled to the country districts of Judaea and Samaria.
- <sup>4</sup> Those who had escaped went from place to place  
preaching the Good News.
- <sup>14</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem  
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,  
they sent Peter and John to them,  
<sup>15</sup> and they went down there,  
and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit,  
<sup>16</sup> for as yet he had not come down on any of them:  
they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
<sup>17</sup> Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- The word of the Lord.