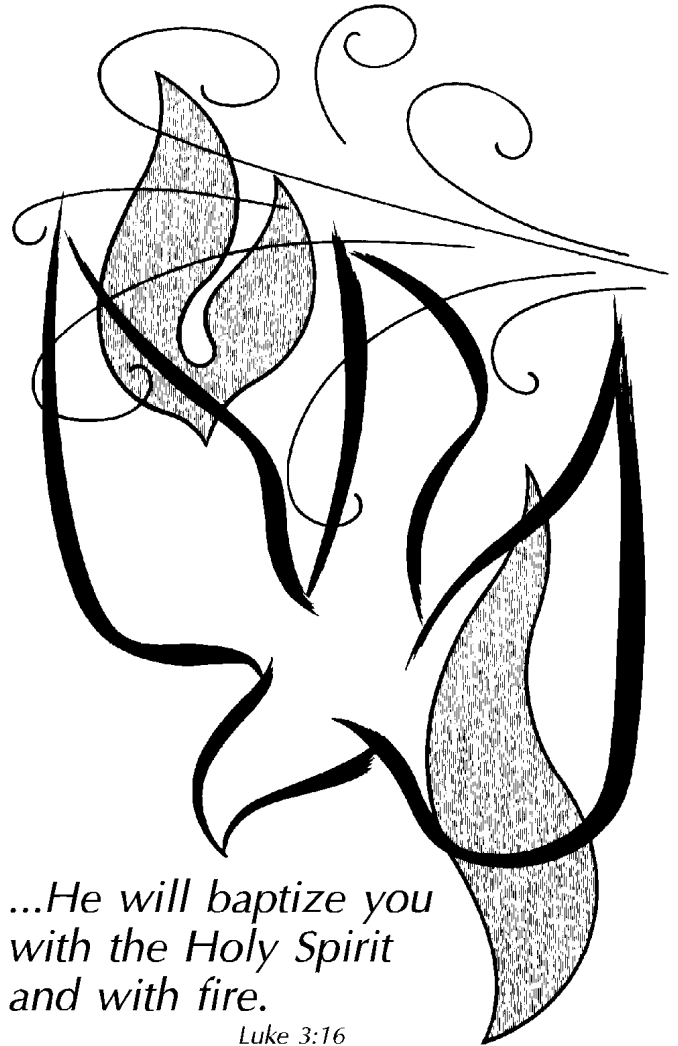


**Acts 17:16–31**

<sup>16</sup>While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbling wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

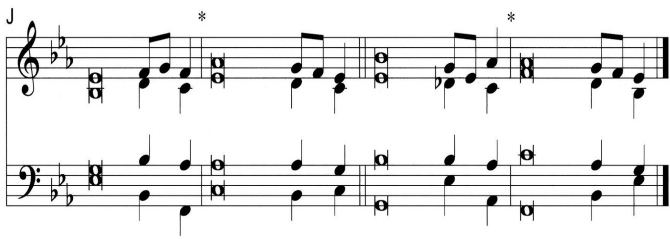
<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."



*...He will baptize you  
with the Holy Spirit  
and with fire.*

*Luke 3:16*



## Psalm 66:8–20

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O | peoples;\*  
 let the sound of his | praise be heard,  
<sup>9</sup> who has kept our soul among the | living\*  
 and has not let our | feet slip.  
<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have | tested us;\*  
 you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.  
<sup>11</sup> You brought us in- | to the net;\*  
 you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;  
<sup>12</sup> you let men ride o- | ver our heads;\*  
 we went through fire and through water;  
 yet you have brought us out  
 to a place of a- | bundance.  
<sup>13</sup> I will come into your house  
 with burnt | offerings;\*  
 I will perform my | vows to you,  
<sup>14</sup> that which my lips | uttered\*  
 and my mouth promised  
 when I was in | trouble.  
<sup>15</sup> I will offer to you burnt offerings  
 of fattened animals,  
 with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;\*  
 I will make an offering  
 of | bulls and goats.  
<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who | fear God,\*  
 and I will tell what he has done |  
 for my soul.  
<sup>17</sup> I cried to him | with my mouth,\*  
 and high praise was | on my tongue.  
<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,\*  
 the Lord would not have | listened.  
<sup>19</sup> But truly God has | listened;\*  
 he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.  
<sup>20</sup> Blessèd | be God,\*  
 because he has not rejected my prayer  
 or removed his steadfast | love from me!

## 1 Peter 3:13–22

<sup>13</sup> Now who is there to harm you if you are  
 zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should  
 suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.  
 Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in  
 your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always  
 being prepared to make a defense to anyone who  
 asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;  
<sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a  
 good conscience, so that, when you are slandered,  
 those who revile your good behavior in Christ may  
 be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for  
 doing good, if that should be God's will, than for  
 doing evil.

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the  
 righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring  
 us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made  
 alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which he went and  
 proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> because they  
 formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited  
 in the days of Noah, while the ark was being  
 prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons,  
 were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup> Baptism,  
 which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a  
 removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to  
 God for a good conscience, through the  
 resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into  
 heaven and is at the right hand of God, with  
 angels, authorities, and powers having been  
 subjected to him.

## John 14:15–21

<sup>15</sup> [Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will  
 keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the  
 Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be  
 with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom  
 the world cannot receive, because it neither sees  
 him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells  
 with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will  
 come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will  
 see me no more, but you will see me. Because I  
 live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know  
 that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in  
 you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps  
 them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me  
 will be loved by my Father, and I will love him  
 and manifest myself to him."