

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (v1)*

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, & work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Acts 9:36-43

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works & acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill & died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up & went with them; & when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping & showing tunics & other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, & then he knelt down & prayed. He turned to the body & said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, & seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand & helped her up. Then calling the saints & widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, & many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit***

1. Compare & contrast this story with the healing of Jairus daughter (*Luke 8:40-42, 49-56; also Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26; Mark 5:21-24, 35-43*). Bonus: do the same with *Acts 9:32-35 & Luke 8:43-48; Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34*. Hint: look for topics, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. Remember to include themes, imagery/ illustrations & "mirror images."
2. What do these resuscitation accounts point us to? *1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37, 2 Kings 13:21; John 11:1-44; Luke 7:11-17, 8:49-56 (Matthew 9:23-26; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43); Acts 9:36-42, Acts 20:9-12*. What makes these resuscitations & not resurrections? See *1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-20; Revelation 20:11-15*

**EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ***

3. Perhaps Tabitha was evangelized by St. Philip (cf. *Acts 8:40*; 6 years prior?). Notice how her faith had grown to such acts of charity & mercy in that time (vv36, 39). What acts of charity & mercy would your congregation show & tell about you at your funeral? If your answer leaves your discomfited & uneasy, talk to your pastor. What changes could you make? See *Matthew 25:31-40; Acts 2:44-45; 1 Timothy 5:3-16*.
4. Christians have long spoken of spiritual awakenings. When have you heard God's call to "get up" (v40)? What happened afterward? Did you obey? Tell of at least 3 instances.

**NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters***

5. St. Peter's ministry mirrors Jesus'. How is this true for your congregation? How could it look more like Jesus' ministry?
6. "Tabitha" means gazelle, a symbol of love & beauty in *Song of Songs* (2:9, 17, 3:5, 4:5, 7:3, 8:14). What does *Revelation 19:7-8, 20:12, 21:2* add? How does this inform #5?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

Fourth Sunday after Easter

05.11.25

Series: Looking Up

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*After Jesus teaches & goes up into heaven, things are looking up  
for the early church*

Get Up!

*Growing up in faith we imitate Jesus*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Peter put all of them outside, & then he knelt down &  
prayed. He turned to the body & said, “Tabitha, get up.”  
Then she opened her eyes, & seeing Peter, she sat up. (v40)

---

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own & my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (v1)*

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, & work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT- Acts 9:36-43

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works & acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill & died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up & went with them; & when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping & showing tunics & other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, & then he knelt down & prayed. He turned to the body & said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, & seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand & helped her up. Then calling the saints & widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, & many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare & contrast this story with the healing of Jairus daughter (*Luke 8:40-42, 49-56; also Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26; Mark 5:21-24, 35-43*). Bonus: do the same with *Acts 9:32-35 & Luke 8:43-48; Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34*. Hint: look for topics, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. Remember to include themes, imagery/ illustrations & "mirror images."
2. What do these resuscitation accounts point us to? *1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37, 2 Kings 13:21; John 11:1-44; Luke 7:11-17, 8:49-56 (Matthew 9:23-26; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43); Acts 9:36-42, Acts 20:9-12*. What makes these resuscitations & not resurrections? *See 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-20; Revelation 20:11-15*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Perhaps Tabitha was evangelized by St. Philip (*cf. Acts 8:40; 6 years prior?*). Notice how her faith had grown to such acts of charity & mercy in that time (*vv36, 39*). What acts of charity & mercy would your congregation show & tell about you at your funeral? If your answer leaves your discomfited & uneasy, talk to your pastor. What changes could you make? *See Matthew 25:31-40; Acts 2:44-45; 1 Timothy 5:3-16*.
4. Christians have long spoken of spiritual awakenings. When have you heard God's call to "get up" (*v40*)? What happened afterward? Did you obey? Tell of at least 3 instances.

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. St. Peter's ministry mirrors Jesus'. How is this true for your congregation? How could it look more like Jesus' ministry?
6. "Tabitha" means gazelle, a symbol of love & beauty in *Song of Songs* (2:9, 17, 3:5, 4:5, 7:3, 8:14). What does *Revelation 19:7-8, 20:12, 21:2* add? How does this inform #5?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)

Fourth Sunday after Easter

05.11.25

Series: Looking Up

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

*After Jesus teaches & goes up into heaven, things are looking up  
for the early church*

Get Up!

*Growing up in faith we imitate Jesus*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Peter put all of them outside, & then he knelt down &  
prayed. He turned to the body & said, “Tabitha, get up.”  
Then she opened her eyes, & seeing Peter, she sat up. (v40)

---

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own & my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2025; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available [stpeterhallettsville.org/blog](http://stpeterhallettsville.org/blog)