April 3, 2016

The first reading during the Easter season is from Acts of the Apostles. It is the companion piece to the Gospel of Luke. The same author wrote the Gospel and Acts as a single, two-part work. Luke is the only Evangelist of the four to do so. This also makes him the source of more New Testament material than any other author, including St. Paul.

Luke reveals the story of Jesus Christ cannot be told without the story of the beginnings of His Church. Acts of the Apostles reveals the earliest days of the Christian community. This is a faith narrative focused on theological and pastoral teaching, rather than a strict historical consideration of people and events. It is salvation history that stresses the workings of the Holy Spirit in the first believers. The expansion of the Christian community, with accompanying graces and struggles, is the content of the narrative. Underlying this account is the universal nature of Christ that extends far beyond tribe, region or ethnicity.

The Easter season makes clear we, too, are participants in Luke’ story. It did not begin nor end with us, yet we play a vital part in our particular time and setting. This faith community has inherited the spiritual tradition of those before us, and nurture for those yet to come. The Church, God’s faithful people filled with the Holy Spirit, continues on pilgrimage.

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