

CONNECT QUESTIONS

- 1) Thinking about this week, how was God at work in your life? Is there some way we can pray for you?
- 2) Last week, we talked about keeping “an open seat at the table” of our lives: making space for God and for the people God wants us to love. How did you try to make space for God and others this week?
- 3) Read the passage and reflect on the sermon from Sunday. What stands out to you?
- 4) Acts 12 begins with both James being executed and Peter being miraculously rescued. Why do you think Luke includes both of these stories together?
- 5) Is there an "impossible situation" in your life that you've stopped (or never started) praying about? What's holding you back?
- 6) Peter and the church struggled to believe that God has answered their prayers. Have you ever experienced that struggle? What does this story teach us about God's faithfulness, even when we doubt?
- 7) How can you practice “earnestly praying” each day this week?
- 8) During a minute of silence, write down one thing (person, situation, need, etc.) you want to keep bringing before God. To close, break into small groups of 2-3 and pray specifically for every need.

Memory Passage

“But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.” — *Acts 12:5 (NLT)*

Trinity Church of the Nazarene

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▪ August 9, 2026 ▪

10:00 AM

Song of Praise

“House of the Lord”

Call to Worship

Andrew Salazar

Songs of Praise

“Holy Forever”

“Way Maker”

Announcements

Pastor Felisha

Sermon

Pastor Travis

▪ *When the Church Prays* ▪

Songs of Praise

“The Blessing”

“I Speak Jesus”

Benediction

Pastor Travis

Acts 12:1-11 (NLT)

¹ About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. ² He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. ³ When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) ⁴ Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. ⁵ But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

⁶ The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. ⁷ Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered.

⁹ So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him.

¹¹ Peter finally came to his senses. “It’s really true!” he said. “The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!”

¹² When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer.

¹³ He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!"

¹⁵ “You’re out of your mind!” they said. When she insisted, they decided, “It must be his angel.”

¹⁶ Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.

Notes:

When the Church Prays

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