



FROM THE PASTOR

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ...

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool."

³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

In our snapshot today, we have another photo of St. Peter preaching. That is only to be expected. St. Peter—in the first part of the book of Acts—and St. Paul—in the second part—are the main speakers and actors. In our snapshot today, St. Peter is continuing to speak to all who would listen after the spectacular events of Pentecost. I am not sure whether he is being heard in different languages or not. My guess is that the miracle of the many languages was over by this time and St. Peter was speaking, and being heard, in Greek. But I could be wrong. In any case the message of Pentecost is about to become as important, if not more so, than the amazing events.



FROM THE PASTOR

Now keep in mind that St. Peter is talking to Jews. They were Jewish people, some from Jerusalem, but many who were visiting Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire. He was talking to people who were very familiar with their own scriptures. We call their scriptures the OLD TESTAMENT and we are probably not nearly as familiar with it as they were or, for that matter, as we ought to be. The crowd that St. Peter was addressing knew about God's promises given through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and through all the prophets. They knew of God's promise of healing and fulfillment in their covenant relationship with God. They knew well of the promise of the Messiah who would make that healing possible and bring that fulfillment. They even knew that beginning with Israel this promise was for all nations and all peoples.

What these Jews listening to St. Peter didn't know was that this promise had been kept. The Messiah had been sent. He was Jesus of Nazareth—so recently executed by the Roman Governor at the urging of the local religious authorities and the mob. This they were probably hearing for the first time in our snapshot today.

St. Peter didn't give them a gentle lesson, either! It was sharp and accusative. ***"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."*** Do we hear the words of accusation? We should. Because it was not just Jewish sin that caused Jesus' death—it was human sin. It was not just Jewish self-idolization that killed Jesus—it was human self-idolization. We can truly sing in that wonderful Lenten hymn, "Ah, Holy Jesus":

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
T'was I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

Can you see the look on the faces of all those listening? Can you feel the conviction in your heart that they were feeling? There is one more snapshot to come in this Pentecost series. I'll describe it to you next Friday. But if you can't wait just read Acts 2:37-42.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Brian Shirey



FROM THE PASTOR

Post Scripts:

- † Our lessons for Sunday, June 14 (The Second Sunday after Trinity) are:
 - First Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8
 - Psalm: Psalm 100
 - Second Lesson: Romans 5:6-15
 - Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:20
- † Even though we are gathering for worship again at our own facility that does not necessarily mean that we can completely guarantee safety from infection or that everybody should attend. I'm sure that our Lord wants you to continue to use prudence and caution. Let's err on the side of caution. If you are not feeling well or have been around anyone at risk for Covid-19 you should wait awhile before coming back. If you have any factors that might make you more vulnerable to getting or would have more difficulty recovering from the virus, you should wait a while before coming back.
- † Keep praying for one another and pray for our President, Governor and other leaders. And trust in our strong Fortress to get us through the remainder of this crisis.

**“This Jesus
God raised up,
and of that all
of us are
witnesses.”**

Acts 2:32, NRSV