

Holy Trinity Sunday

“Let the message of Pentecost be known and heeded” (Acts 2:14)

June 4, 2023

Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Holy Trinity Sunday is from our epistle reading, Acts 2:14

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.”

Here ends our text.

Maybe you’re thinking you just had a deja vu moment when you heard the text. No actually you heard this verse last week as Peter began his Pentecost sermon. Our epistle reading repeats it today to remind us who of the 12 apostles stood up and was speaking. And our text is repeated to emphasize again, that what Peter is speaking needs to be made known. And it needs to be heard and heeded!

Last week, the epistle reading stopped with the first part of Peter’s sermon which explained to the people what was going on. The followers of Christ were not drunk. But were receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to speak the wonderful works of God. Peter said that this was prophesied, quoting Joel. And it was being fulfilled in their very presence.

We see how greatly God wants His wonderful works to be known in that He makes them known in everyone’s different language. God chose this moment to begin His New Testament church. He chose this moment to send out His Spirit who gives life and salvation to all who heed His Word. God creates life. God begins and gives rebirth through the Holy Spirit. And it is all possible through the work of the One called the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

This is the message that Peter now delivers – who is the Lord upon whose name you must call on to be saved?

For this is how our epistle ended last week.

**“The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.
21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.’**

The final day is coming. It is the great and awesome day of judgement. One must stand before the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit on the last day. God makes known how this day is will be a day of rejoicing and not absolute anguish and gnashing of teeth. How? One must call on the name of the Lord Jesus to be saved. One must call on the name of Jesus to be saved from the eternal judgement of condemnation for all our “unwonderful”, unjust, unbelieving works of sin. As we heard in the Old Testament reading, God created all and it was good. And yet, what God created good, man corrupted and became His enemy. We have corrupted with our thoughts words and deeds.

Peter makes two main truths known that must be heeded. First of all, Peter speaks boldly of the Law with all it’s force of judgement. And then, he speaks of the Gospel with all its comfort of salvation. For Jesus has won eternal rest for all by His death and resurrection!

First, the Law.

Peter doesn’t hold back. He’s not trying to be politically correct. He’s trying to save souls. The Law prepares the heart to hear the Good News of the Gospel. The Law threatens, condemns and leaves the hearer troubled to despair of one’s own perceived goodness.

How does Peter do this? Very directly and to the point he says,
“Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”

The 2nd person of the Trinity, the Word made flesh. He became a true Man. He who spoke, and it was made at creation, was now revealed to the people of Israel as God by miracles, wonders and signs. And what did they do? Believe in Him? Follow Him? Worship Him? No, they crucified Him. They killed He who created the world. They killed God in the flesh. Your hands are lawless, Peter says. They

are unclean. They are guilty. And you are not relieved of your guilt because this was according to the foreknowledge of God. God, the Father, knew that they would reject and crucify His Son. God knew that this was the only way to save all mankind.

And Jesus was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and puts all enemies under His feet. So Peter quotes from Psalm 16 which prophesies Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.

“The Lord (*God the Father*) said to my Lord, (*God, the Son*) “Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’

The Law says there is only condemnation for God's enemies. The Law says that they are in the footstool of hell. And the Law cut to the heart of the people of Israel when Peter then says,

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Guilty as charged. And the same Law convicts us of not loving the Lord Jesus with all our heart, mind and soul. Our sins remind us that we too will die, just as David died and was buried. And our bodies will see corruption and return to dust, including the body of Sister Wilhelmina Lancaster, who was recently exhumed in Missouri. Her body didn't seem to have decomposed much. Of course, her body has seen decay and will continue to decay. It's not a fast process. To say that her body is uncorrupted is to raise her to the status of the only One whose body never decayed, Jesus Christ.

Some call Sister Wilhelmina's slow decomposition a sign of Sainthood. Again, that makes salvation a work of man. Guilty as charged. We cannot be saved by the Law. We cannot raise our dead bodies up. We cannot give them life. We are powerless by the Law to do so.

But, Jesus was not powerless. This is the Gospel. This is the marvelous work which Jesus did for all people. For He is sinless. And His sinless body bore the sins of all men and so He suffered the pains of death and hell itself.

And yet, because Jesus was sinless, His body could not see corruption in the grave as David says. This is wonderful proof that Jesus is the One true Son of God. His

body alone remained uncorrupted in the tomb. And, because Jesus conquered all sin, death and the devil by His death, He then rose from the dead. Peter boldly says,

“having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

This prophecy in Psalm 16 gave Jesus comfort as He faced the punishment for all our sins. Listen again to Jesus’ very thoughts from Psalm 16.

**“I foresaw the Lord always before my face,
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.
26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.
27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’**

And Jesus offers what made His heart glad to all people. The ways of life and full joy in God’s presence!

When the Law in Peter’s sermon had cut the people to the heart, they were ready to hear the Gospel of hope.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

And 3000 were baptized for the remission of their sins. And this is our Gospel. We who are cut to the heart because of our sins, rest in the work of Jesus on the cross that He gives to you through the hearing of His Word, that He gives to you through your baptism, that He gives to you through the Lord’s Supper. Yes, in the name of the Triune God we have been created and in the name of the Triune God we have been redeemed. And so we rest in this hope!

And we make it known to the world just like Peter did with all boldness that lost sinners may know the wonderful works of God and heed them in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord sends us forth with His Law and His Gospel of forgiveness in His Great Commission.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

All things. Law and Gospel. And Jesus is with us always to the end of the age.
Amen.

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)