

Holy Trinity Sunday
June 12, 2022
“Glorious prophecies fulfilled to tell”
(Acts 2:29-31)
By Rev. Ed Weber

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today’s text for this Holy Trinity Sunday is from our Epistle reading Acts 2:29-31.

“29 “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.”

Here ends our text.

And God swore an oath on it to David as we hear from Psalm 132:11.

**“The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it:
“I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.**

First, David’s prophecies led Jesus’ enemies to repentance and faith in Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. David’s prophecies led himself to repentance and leads us also! Second, they strengthened Jesus to do His Father’s will of saving the world by His death on the cross and were written that we too would serve God in the Great Commission.

1. David’s prophecies (especially Psalms 16 and 110) were written to lead all to repentance and faith in Jesus

Men and brethren, Peter says to the group gathered on Pentecost. Moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter faced the enemies of Jesus, the very ones who with the help of the Romans put Jesus to death on the cross. Peter’s goal, as is our goal always, is to bring unbelievers to repentance and faith in Jesus!

So, after quickly explaining that the Pentecost fire, wind, and speaking in languages that the people are seeing is the work of the Holy Spirit... Peter states the very goal of the Holy Spirit in verse 21 right before our Epistle reading.

“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.”

Now, in order, to call on the name of the Lord, the Spirit works through His Word by which He calls sinners to repentance.

“Let me speak to you freely!” Peter says. There is no holding back! He’s going to tell God’s Word to them, clearly, convincingly and lovingly. His message is direct and to the point - Christ Crucified. Our message is the same. And through it the Holy Spirit saves unbelievers who go after false gods in sorrow as Jesus says in our introit Psalm 16:4. **“He will not take up their names on His lips.”**

So Peter says,

“22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: 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; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is never a time to hold back the truth of God’s Word that we have in our possession. We must speak freely because men, women and children’s souls depend on hearing the saving truth. It is the only way to have life after this life.

David, the patriarch, trusted that the fruit of his body, his offspring would be the Messiah who would save the world! Jesus would conquer death by rising again, ascend into heaven and reign at the right hand of God the Father.

Why was this such a comfort to David? Because David died and was buried. There is no escaping this unless of course Jesus returns before we die. Yes, the great patriarch David couldn’t beat death. You know where his tomb is, Peter tells the Jews. There you will find his bones.

If the great patriarch David lies in a tomb, why would we expect to escape this punishment for sin? We shouldn't, but David knows who took on the world's sin and punishment. David knows who endured the pains of the cross. The precise word here is "agony". Jesus endured our agony so that we would not. He put all our enemies under Him as a footstool, sin, death and the devil, Peter goes on to say.

This was foretold by David and accomplished, Peter says, through the very people he was speaking to. Yes, **"God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."** (Acts 2:36)

Yes, these very Jews were guilty murder accomplices of the innocent, Holy Son of God. That God the Father foretold, knew and purposed their evil actions as the way to save all humanity does not absolve the Jews of their guilt. God knows all our sins ahead of time, but that does not absolve us either.

There is but one thing to do when God's Word leaves us cut to the heart like the Jewish people. What must we do? Well, there is nothing that we can do. For there are no good works, pilgrimages, offerings, prayers or efforts to save the planet that will do.

The answer as Peter said, is **"Repent..."** Acknowledge your sin before God and cry out for mercy. This is exactly what David did in the 51st Psalm.

**"Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my
transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.
4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge."**

And the same Spirit who moved Peter to speak, the 3rd person of the Trinity, restored David through His Word. So, Psalm 51 continues:

**"Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous
Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You."**

The same Word that taught David to others of the joy of salvation in Jesus, is the same Word he has taught to us. For God's Word is eternal as he says in his first epistle.

1 Peter 1:23

“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever,”

And not only that, Peter tells of a special gift of the Spirit that washes one's sins away! This most beautiful verse we know very well from our catechisms. For after we repent, we hear these words.

““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.”

2. David's prophecies are to be told to all people! The Great Commission!

This gift of baptism is for every one of you! The promise is to every one of you! To all of your children!

That's what Holy Trinity Sunday is all about! The Great Commission of making disciples of all nations in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them all that God has commanded especially including the Psalms of David.

Family reunions are a great way to bring all the family together and strengthen each other with the Word of God. It's one way among many to carry out the Great Commission among the brothers, sisters, grandchildren, and cousins. I'm sure you all have great stories to tell of the Spirit's working in your families. Let me tell you a few stories of how God blessed our vacation. I'm not a Facebook person so I don't post any pictures. But, I'll give you some of the highlights as the Weber family endeavored to do as Psalm 16, our introit said to **“set the Lord always before me.”**

Of course, these are Jesus words that David prophesied. All of Psalm 16 is a Messianic Psalm. And what Jesus did perfectly, we do most imperfectly as we sang in our hymn of the day, *“to this poor self-centered soul, touch but my lips, my hands my heart and make a world for Christ my goal.”*

Indeed, Jesus did receive strength from Psalm 16 to stay firm to His Father's will of being the sacrificial Lamb for the sins of the world. So, the Psalm begins with Jesus' words according to His human nature.

**“Preserve Me, O God, for in You I put my trust.
2 O My soul, you have said to the Lord,
“You are My Lord,”**

He did this knowing that though He would suffer much agony on the cross, both spiritual and physical and it would end! He would finish salvation once and for all! And Jesus heard this Psalm spoken of Him that that His flesh would not see corruption and He would rest in hope.

**“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”**

What comfort that was for Jesus! What does that mean for us, and for all our families whom the Lord has called? Psalm 16 says these words so beautifully.

“As for the saints who are on the earth, They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14)

Well, back to how the Lord strengthened us at our family reunion in Florida. Our family arrived in Orlando on Saturday and stayed at a rental home that was big enough for 22. On Sunday we made a short 30 minute drive to Lakeland and worshipped together at my parents' home church, Our Savior Lutheran. Here we were comforted to hear the Ascension message as also you did too from Pastor Goetz. Jesus reigns and will come again in glory to take His saints to heaven! We enjoyed nightly songs and prayers.

And also we took a quick drive to Cocoa beach and enjoyed the beauty of the sea that the Lord created as we heard in our Proverbs reading earlier.

“He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command”

Yes, we enjoyed seeing the work of the Master Craftsman, Jesus, personified as Wisdom. And another day we went to see His sea creatures that He created at Sea World, especially the beautiful dolphins that flipped and twirled and raced in the tank. And of course, we had to get out on the beautiful golf courses and see the beautifully manicured greens. Yes, Florida tends to get a lot more rain than South Texas.

Especially on one day, my dad and I were caught in a thunderstorm on a course where someone was hit by lightning on the 14th hole. Well, we did our best to hunker down in the golf cart. I was holding up a towel to try to stop the sheets of rain that were coming down, when all of a sudden, a woman yells at us from her home next to the course. Come on in and get out of the rain!

What kind hospitality she and her husband offered to us. They gave us something to drink, made a hot dog for me, and even gave us some dry golf shirts to wear. Throughout the 45 minute conversation until the rain subsided, they learned we were believers in Christ and we all ended up saying “God bless you” to each other. The next day we returned the shirts, cleaned and folded with a thank you card and Bible verse. How might God continue this new relationship between my parents and these kind neighbors? God sometimes leads us in the Great Commission in the most unexpected ways.

Well, there are more family reunion stories to tell of God acting in our lives wherever we are and fulfilling the Great Commission through you and me. But, that’s for another message. The single most important story that Peter laser focused on in his sermon was the one event in history that changed the world!

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:36)

It happened. Jesus died, rose and ascended to high! All glory to the Triune God! And through the Holy Spirit’s leading, you and I have the great privilege and honor to be His servants in the Great commission. For this promise is every one. It’s for you and your children. It’s for friends and neighbors. God’s saving message through His servants David and Peter lead lost people to repentance and a washing of their sins in Holy Baptism. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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