

The Holy Trinity
May 30, 2021

"All glory to the Triune God for His Great Redemptive work"

(Acts 2:33)

By Rev. Ed Weber

LSB 506

"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 Trinity Sunday is from our Epistle reading

"Therefore, being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

Here ends our text.

He poured out this! He, Jesus, being exalted to the right hand of God the Father according to His human nature, poured out the Holy Spirit on those first believers and witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. All that you, men of Israel are hearing in your own language, is the complete foreknown and purposed plan of redemption of the entire world!

You're hearing the "wonderful works of God" (v.11) **"That whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** (v.21)

This is the verse that immediately precedes our epistle reading. For indeed, God, wants all people to be saved – even the ones who directly crucified His very Son Jesus.

Jesus poured this out so that you who are living in ignorance and eternal condemnation, would repent and be saved.

It's an amazing message that we hear directed toward Jesus' enemies – a message of unrelenting law, but most of all love and forgiveness. Yes, when Jesus said that

His disciples would be witnesses of Him starting in Jerusalem, we see that He was thinking of the very people who handed Him over to be crucified!

God does not overlook anyone. He didn't skip over Jerusalem and go to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the world. No, Jesus died for the very people who mocked Him and caused Him great agony and death. He died so that they would be redeemed of all their sins.

And we, the people beyond Judea and Samaria are no different. We are equally guilty of not defending Jesus' name in this world. Our sins that are many have put us in the same inescapable position as Nicodemus, the pharisee. We need to be born again for our sinful flesh cannot enter the kingdom of God. Our sinful flesh will receive the same end as David. His grave was among the Jews and well known.

It's interesting that scientists periodically come out with a new finding about man's longevity. Just this past week, a new article suggested that man has an upper limit of 150 years. That of course is the best-case scenario, or worst case scenario if you consider the quality of life from 100 on goes down drastically. If the usual hazards of life don't take us out by genetics or serendipity says the article, then there is a fundamental loss of resiliency that will. Our bodies which tend to recover quickly in our youth, lose that ability completely.

Scientists have observed a marked decline in the body's ability to recover starting at the age of 35-40 and it just keeps getting weaker. That's another reason why professional athletes usually retire at the age of about 35. The body can't bounce back quick enough anymore. Of course, there is no mention of God as the author, giver and taker of life, who prolongs life according to His gracious will. No, scientists believe that if they can solve the "resiliency" riddle then they can find the elixir of life. Good luck with that!

Yes, Peter doesn't dance around the question of death. Especially, he focuses on Jesus' death – the death of the Holy One, who died at the hands of his listeners. He does this because this is where there is good news for all people.

Jesus' death was purposed and foreknown by God. It was purposed to put all enemies under His footstool. And we know from 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 that the last enemy is death itself.

“For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

That this was always part of God’s plan, Peter quotes Scripture from Psalm 16 and then Psalm 110.

**“I foresaw the Lord always before my face,
For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.
Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad;
Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.” (Acts 2:25-26)**

Jesus Himself is speaking in this Psalm 16. He was never shaken from His purpose to save the world from their sins because He constantly beheld the face of His Father. Though He confronted evil men who hated Him, Jesus’ heart rejoiced. He knew that though He would die, His sinless flesh would not see decay, but rest in hope of the resurrection and ascension on high.

Yes, Jesus’ tongue was glad as He spoke continually of the Way of salvation through His death and resurrection.

“Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? (Matthew 21:42)

This was according to the Triune God’s marvelous plan to redeem the world!

So, Jesus spoke to Nicodemus the beautiful verse from John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

And by the power of the Holy Spirit, sinful men can say that Jesus is Lord. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

By the power of the Holy Spirit, sinful men can be cleansed of their sins through baptism. That is what Jesus spoke of to Nicodemus. A sinner must be born again by water and the Spirit.

And that is exactly what happened on Pentecost after Peter spoke to the Jews who had crucified Jesus. They were cut to the heart and asked what they should do. The answer? Yes, there is good news for all repentant sinners!

“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.” (Acts 2:38-39)

And that promise for all of us who are afar off – 2000 years removed from Jesus’ death and resurrection. For we also need to be born again by water and the Spirit. Our sinful flesh will give out by the time we are 150 years old or most likely much sooner! But the good news of John 3:16 is that we will not perish, but have everlasting life!

It is the gift of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son. It is the work of the Triune God who foresaw your sinfulness and mine and sent Jesus, the only way of salvation, into our world.

David, a prophet, inspired by the Holy Spirit foresaw this also when he wrote in Psalm 110 and quoted by Peter,

**“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,
35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’ (Acts 2:34-35)**

The Lord, God the Father said to David’s Lord, Jesus, this verse. It filled David with much joy to know that the Messiah would come. It fills us with much joy that our enemies, evil men, the devil and death itself have been made the footstool of Jesus by His death and resurrection!

He accomplished our salvation once and for all. And now, God’s word, through Peter’s Pentecost sermon has reached our ears and has made our heart rejoice and our tongues glad. We too live without fear that death has lost its sting! (1 Corinthians 15:55).

And this day especially, the Holy Spirit gives to our souls the very forgiveness that Jesus won on the cross as we eat His very body and blood!

Yes, on this Trinity Sunday and always, thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **“who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57) Amen.**

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