

Midweek Advent 1  
December 2, 2020

“God’s oath of trust in THE Descendent of David’s throne- the Christ” (Acts 2:30)  
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“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, THE Descendent of the David’s throne! Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today’s text for this first midweek Advent service, is from tonight’s second reading from Acts 2:30.

**“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. 32 This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”**

Here ends our text.

Who is this Jesus? That was at the heart of Peter’s Pentecost sermon. Which leads to the next important question – what does He mean to you? And these same questions are asked of each of us tonight – who is Jesus to you and what does He mean to you? What does God’s oath mean for you?

Peter was speaking to the Jews who were guilty of nailing Jesus to the cross with the help of wicked men, the Romans. They had instigated and perpetuated this crime of crucifying Jesus. Now Peter tells them in the clearest of words that this was part of the **“determined purpose and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23)**

Their very lives, their very crime was connected with the moment that God had purposed for the salvation of the world. Their sinful hearts were beginning to see just how awful their crime was. They had murdered the Lord!

Yet, this evil, as bad as it was, could not stop God’s purpose of bringing Jesus back to life. What they had done was undone by Jesus’ resurrection. This Jesus is alive!

We are witnesses! The Jews' ancestor David is dead. His grave site is there in Jerusalem, Peter says. But the tomb that held Jesus for 3 days is empty!

And this Jesus, who the Jews saw do many miracles and could not deny it, showed forth the greatest of miracles by rising from the dead.

What's the connection with David? Well, Peter tells us. And here is the big eye opener! Jesus is The Descendant that David spoke of when he, being a prophet, wrote Psalm 16 and Psalm 110. Both of these Psalms Peter quotes in his sermon to show that they speak of Jesus' resurrection and His exaltation to the right hand of the Father.

Peter quotes Psalm 16 which shows how Jesus, knowing Scripture, could be absolutely assured of His resurrection. For God's oaths are 100% sure.

**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.'**

Jesus' body would rest in the grave in hope. He would rise again. His soul that suffered in hell on the cross would not be left there. For God's word assured Jesus that He would know the ways of life. He would rise again and be filled with joy in the Father's presence! What's more, because Jesus is the Holy One, sinless, His body would not see corruption. All these words were written about this Jesus whom the Jews crucified.

The Jews knew these Psalms well, and now their hearts were being convicted that this Jesus is none other than the Christ. Peter continues.

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

Yes, David says these very words referring to Jesus as His Lord in Psalm 110.

**The Lord said to my Lord, (that is, the Father said to His Son Jesus, David's Lord) “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” (Psalm 110:1)**

And right now, you men of Israel are the footstool of Jesus' foot. He has His foot on your throats, for He conquered death and all enemies that put Him to death!

And with this incredible realization of who Jesus is, and what they had done to the Son of God, and that they were enemies of God for doing this, they were cut to the heart. "What shall we do?"

And that was the moment, the moment, that the Holy Spirit had purposed to bring through the words given to Peter. It is the moment of conviction that every sinner, you and I, must face, that I am guilty of all the sin that I have committed against God."

What shall we do? There is but one thing to do. Repent. Confess all wrongdoing. And then be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins. And receive, yes, receive, for it is a gift, the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit will give you the faith, just like David, to call Jesus your Lord.

About 3000 repented and were saved. They were saved by the Holy One whom they had nailed to the cross. Only the Holy Spirit can change an enemy of God into His friend...through simple water and the Word.

And that's good news for each of us. For we like David and the men of Israel are all sinners. But God called David to repentance and forgave him his sin that he committed with the wife of Uriah, who is mentioned in the genealogy of Matthew. For Jesus' line of descent would go through their son Solomon. God forgives. God cleanses. God saves.

The genealogy and the throne of David are purified by Jesus. David's throne is spoken of to Mary with the highest of praise. So, we heard in our third reading Gabriel's words to Mary in Luke 1.

**"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

Jesus' throne is forever.

And the good news is that there is forgiveness for not just the house of Israel, but all nations. Peter concludes his sermon saying,

**“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.”**

This promise of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit is for all of us who are afar off. For the Lord in His mercy has called you to repentance and washed your sins away in your baptisms. So, he has adopted you as His children.

And Jesus, your Lord, has brought you into His kingdom where He will reign forever. This is God’s oath to you. **“He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)**

And in His great mercy He has grafted you into His family tree, so that you are also a descendent of David.

So, Paul describes in Romans 11 the family tree of Jews and Gentiles whose branches are connected to the Holy root, Jesus.

**“16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.”**

The Root supports you. Rejoice you Gentiles, Paul says four chapters later in Romans 15.

**“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” 11 And again: “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” 12 And again, Isaiah says:**

**“There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”**

This Root of Jesse, Son of David, has risen to reign over all of us Gentiles with His love and mercy. And in Him, our Lord do we hope. And that’s God’s oath that you can depend on!! Amen.

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