

<sup>14</sup> Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, ... <sup>22</sup> “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 – <sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; <sup>24</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. <sup>27</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.’ <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> 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, <sup>31</sup> he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup> This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, <sup>35</sup> till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” <sup>36</sup> Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Text: Acts 2:14a, 22-36 A 5/31/26 Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6:1-8 John 3:1-8, 16-17 Psalm 16  
Hymns: 246, 239, 360, 508 (stand during the final verse) Athanasian Creed

### **BELIEVE AND SHARE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!**

Thou whose almighty word Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray, And where the Gospel day Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring On Thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the inly blind, O now to all mankind  
Let there be light!

Spirit of Truth and Love, Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth Thy flight;  
Move on the water's face, Bearing the lamp of grace, And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light! (TLH #508:1-3)

Dear fellow believers in Christ, and witnesses for Him,

Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in foreign languages they hadn't known before. They preached with confidence and power about the crucified and risen Christ. Three thousand people came to believe in Jesus on that day. Today on this Trinity Sunday, we thank God for giving us faith in Jesus, our Savior, and giving us the privilege of sharing the Gospel's message of salvation in Jesus with the whole world.

In our text, Peter tells his fellow Jews about Jesus. *“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. 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.”* Every Jew knew about King David. David was one of the greatest rulers the Jews ever had. God promised David He would send the Messiah as his descendant one day. This King would be infinitely greater than David.

Peter compares David and Jesus. Isaiah had prophesied about Jesus, *“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and His name will be called ... Everlasting Father.... Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever”* (9:6, 7). Unlike David who died, his greater Descendant, Jesus Christ, lives and rules forever as our Heavenly King! Peter is telling his fellow Jews that Jesus is no ordinary human being. He is our eternal God! Jesus Himself had told the Jews, *“Before Abraham was, I AM.”* (Jn. 8:58)

Peter says that Jesus is *“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.”* All the people knew about Jesus. They had either seen Him perform miracles, or at least certainly had heard about them. Even Jesus’ enemies didn’t try to deny His miracle when He raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:47). One of the Jewish religious leaders, a named Nicodemus, had told Jesus, *“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him”* (Jn. 3:2). Jesus healed people of every sickness and disease, cast demons out of people, and even brought the dead back to life! Nicodemus realized that only God can do such things, so he came to believe the truth that Jesus is God.

Peter says that after Jesus died on the cross, *“God raised [Him] up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”* All the Jews had heard about Jesus’ crucifixion. Peter tells the people that Jesus had risen from the dead. Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was *“declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”* Only God has the power over life and death. Jesus could bring Himself back to life again after He died because Jesus is God.

Peter tells his fellow Jews, *“[Jesus,] being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.”* The Jewish authorities had Jesus crucified. God knew what they were going to do to His Son before they did it. He allowed them to take Jesus away and put Him to death. God didn’t make them kill Jesus. God knows when we’re going to sin, but He doesn’t make us sin. When we do wrong, it’s our own fault (Jms. 1:13-14). God took the evil plan of Jesus’ enemies to put Him to death, and used it to provide salvation for the whole world.

Peter says, *“David says concerning [Jesus]: ‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.’”* Jesus was able to endure His suffering and death on the cross because God the Father was with Him. Jesus could say, *“Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.”* The twelfth chapter of Hebrews says about Jesus that it was *“for the joy that was set before Him (that He) endured the cross, despising the*

*shame*” (v. 2). Even though Jesus had to bear the terrible burden of our sin and guilt and punishment, He nevertheless had joy in His heart. He knew that He was carrying out His Father’s will. He knew that, as God, His body wouldn’t even begin to decay during the three days it would lay in the tomb. He knew, as He had told His disciples before He was crucified, that He would rise again at the end of the three days (Jn. 2:19-22). And He knew that His suffering, death, and resurrection would gain our salvation.

Peter could tell his fellow Jews with absolute confidence, *“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”* After Jesus had died and before He rose again, the poor disciples had hidden themselves away in sadness and fear. Two of them on the road to Emmaus spoke of *“Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and ... the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel”* (Lk. 24:19-21). They thought their beloved Lord was dead and gone. But Jesus was happy to prove them wrong!

John tells us in his Gospel, *“The same day at evening”* (the same day Jesus had risen from the dead!), *“when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord”* (Jn. 20:19-20). Even though Jesus had told them beforehand that He would rise from the dead, it didn’t register at the time. But when He appeared to them that first Easter evening and spoke to them and let them touch Him, they knew He is alive.

Peter says, *“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.”* Jesus had ascended back to heaven where He rules over all things. On Pentecost, Jesus had poured out the Holy Spirit on His disciples. They told the people that Jesus has risen from the dead! They told them that everyone who believes in Jesus has all of his sins taken away, and Jesus will take him to heaven one day to live with Him forever!

Jesus had changed the disciples from being terrified to let people know they were Christians, to boldly preaching about Jesus and our salvation in Him. The Holy Spirit brought three thousand people to believe in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit is here right now, working in us through the message the disciples preached: Repent and believe in Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the cross, and rose again to save us.

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending and sacrificing Your Son to save us. Dear Jesus, thank You for living and dying and living again to save us. Dear Holy Spirit, help us always to believe in Jesus, our Savior. As You did for the disciples, help us to confidently and joyfully share the message of forgiveness and eternal salvation in Jesus. As You brought so many to believe in Jesus in the days of the disciples to this day, bring countless more to believe in Him and be saved!”

Holy and blessed Three, Glorious Trinity,  
 Wisdom, Love, Might;  
 Boundless as ocean’s tide Rolling in fullest pride, Thro’ the earth, far and wide,  
 Let there be light! Amen. (TLH #508:4)