

Jesus Is Lord

Acts 2:14–36

Each day, it's important to take your bearings. Where are you today? In the Easter season, in the scriptures, in your daily life, in your very self? Spend a few minutes getting your bearings for the day.

Let's briefly examine where we are in the Book of Acts and then begin our day with a prayer for deliverance—for ourselves, our fraternity brothers, and all Exodus Men.

You are in Jerusalem with the apostles. Jesus has commanded us to wait for the coming of his Spirit. We unite ourselves to the apostles in prayer and in witnessing to the resurrection.

Pray that the Lord grants deliverance to you, your family, and your fraternity.

Pray for freedom for all men in Exodus, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

But Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yes, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be

shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Brethren, I may say to you confidently of the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens; but he himself says, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a stool for your feet.'

Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Reflection

We begin to see the power of the resurrection in Peter's transformation. The man who denied Jesus three times now stands up boldly before all the people to proclaim the kingship of Jesus—the very charge that brought about Jesus's death. His message is bold: the day of the Lord has come, a day of judgment to those who rejected the Messiah. This judgment can turn into mercy for those who repent and accept the true lordship of Jesus.

The preaching of the early Church focused on the kingship of Jesus, which explains, in part, why the early Christians were always persecuted. The apostles did not reject the authority of the Romans or the chief priests but preached the reign of Jesus as being above their rule, with them subordinate to it. This may not sound like a big deal to us, but for the Romans and Jews, it was revolutionary. Jesus, not Caesar, not any future political Messiah, was Lord and Christ, the one who reigns over the whole world. He exercises his reign, however, not through a visible power but through his Spirit working in his disciples.

Peter's message to the crowd applies to us as well. We have truly crucified Christ through our sins, which reject his lordship in our life, but there is hope. Through faith in Jesus, we, too, can receive mercy and the gift of the Spirit. We must remain penitent and joyful, knowing that Jesus is our true king.

Day 6 Action Item

Observe Fridays as days of penance. Consider the habits you might be called to continue. The Plan of Life includes the base of abstinence from meat and cold showers on Fridays, maintaining Friday as a special day of penance. Are there any other disciplines from Exodus 90 or Lent that you want to continue one day a week or every week, such as fasting, avoiding snacking, sweets, and sweet drinks, taking cold showers, or engaging in regular physical exercise? Take this to prayer. If you feel so called, add some of

these as personal disciplines to your regular routine for your Plan of Life. No matter what you decide, Fridays (except on solemnities, such as today) should remain a day focused on the Passion of Jesus and a call to carry our cross with him. They continue to anchor our asceticism throughout the year and to grow in our practice of Christian penance.