

# An Easter Sermon on PENTECOST

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**On Pentecost** the promised Holy Spirit was poured out, with the sound of a mighty wind, on the little band of Jesus' followers. Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival, and on that day "devout men from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate. The sound of the rushing wind drew these visitors to listen as the disciples proclaimed the mighty acts of God. Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit gathered the crowds in Jerusalem to hear Peter deliver an Easter sermon!

Peter told the crowd that they had crucified their Messiah by delivering him into the hands of his enemies. But God raised Jesus from

the dead, because death could not hold the innocent Son of God. "This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" (Acts 2:23-24).



Centuries before, Peter explained, the great King David had written about death and about the hope and promise of resurrection. David said that God would not leave his Holy One in the place of the dead or let his body experience corruption and decay: “For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:10-11).

But David was not talking about himself, Peter said, or about his own experience of death. David died and his body was buried and, in fact, Peter told the crowd, you can still visit his tomb! “I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day ... he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ” (Acts 2:29, 31). The Holy Spirit inspired David to write about the resurrection of Jesus. His tomb was nearby, but it was empty!

Jesus was crucified, but God raised him from the dead! Peter and the other disciples were eyewitnesses. They had seen and touched and listened to the risen Lord. “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32). Peter proclaimed the joyful news: Jesus, crucified and risen from the dead, was exalted by God as Lord of all and Messiah of Israel! “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36).

Peter proclaimed the Gospel on that Day of Pentecost. Jesus, who was crucified, had been raised from the dead. The Holy Spirit was at work as that good news was proclaimed, moving the people in that Pentecost crowd to repent of their sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. The Church grew! “Those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Fifty days after Jesus’ resurrection, an Easter sermon was proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus has risen from the dead! It is a message that will be proclaimed until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Whenever and wherever the good news is announced, the Holy Spirit will be at work, calling people to faith in the crucified and risen Savior.

