

## **“The Joy of the Resurrection”**

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John 20.19-31, Acts 14a, 22-32  
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Westby & Viroqua UMC

On this second Sunday of Easter, we thank God for his great love and goodness towards each one of us and we ask that his Spirit flood our being; May that Jesus in whom life has triumphed continue with us, filling us more every day, strengthening us and driving us to give clearer testimony of his Resurrection.

The first reading presents us with excerpts from Peter's first speech in front of all the people, bearing witness to the Resurrection of Jesus. This Peter has nothing to do with the one who three times denied his Master in the events of his Passion; now he is completely transformed, his faith leads him to boldly proclaim a speech in which he publicly denounces the guilt of the Jewish nation in the death of Jesus; but at the same time he boldly announces how God has raised Jesus from the dead, which is reason for hope for those who listen to him.

The power of death is no longer valid; You can't kill life, "you can't bury the light." With the crucifixion of Jesus, the authorities thought that they had silenced the voice of the Galilean Jesus, that they had gotten rid of his criticism and that soon the portion of the people who sympathized with him would forget him forever or, in some way, would be punished. But they did not count on the fact that behind Jesus there were two very important realities: the support of God the Father for the work of his Son and a small group of followers who, although they had to see their Master die, the spirit of the risen man moves and gives the necessary courage to become bold promoters of the Resurrection and the full validity of the project of Jesus. They will be persecuted and will be required to remain silent regarding the Name of Jesus, but they will remain firm: "...judge for yourselves if it is right in the eyes of God that we obey you rather than him. Judge him. We cannot silence what we have seen and heard".

It is convenient to realize why the Father resurrects Jesus to demonstrate his power? No. The Father resurrects him because his choice of life is addressed to a people governed by death. God's commitment is to the cause of life and justice in the world. Of course, God did not need

to see the blood of his own son shed, just as he does not want or need to see the blood of so many sons and daughters shed who throughout history have suffered and continue to suffer persecution and death because they have oriented their life by the path of the fight for truth, justice, peace and the rights of all in imitation of Jesus. The hopeful promise of the gospel message is that any sign of death that may appear in life will be defeated with the light of the resurrection.

On the cross Jesus is not alone, the Father is with his Son. In our suffering we are not alone, God is with us. The phrase of Jesus on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? He disoriented us tremendously, we have always been surprised by that loneliness, that abandonment; however, the Psalm that Jesus sings is not only that verse, the feeling of the psalmist in the mouth of Jesus is not reduced to the feeling of abandonment; above all else is trust in his Father as manifested in the second part of the Psalm.

While we see disciples dead from fear, locked up so as not to be surprised by those who had silenced the Word by murdering it on a cross. The Father, consistent with the message of life, resurrects his Son, and sends him to meet him. Fear, sadness, grief, disappointment, anger, impotence in front of the risen Jesus, the disciples begin to experience the joy of Jesus' resurrection, to discover that life, the project of freedom proposed by Jesus, could not end on the cross.

Let us remember that "the Risen One is the crucified" that we do not forget that the glorification of Jesus and, ultimately, the glorification of the believer, has to be achieved despite evil.