**Lesson 3**

**Acts 2:14-47 Pentecost and St. Peter’s Speech**

*In last week’s lesson we saw the disciples choose a replacement for Judas. We also read about the promise of the Spirit that was to come to this community of believers. The Spirit did come during the celebration of Pentecost. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the first fruit of the Holy Spirit was the ability to speak the Word of God to all the pilgrims who were visiting Jerusalem. These pilgrims were in Jerusalem to celebrate the harvest as well as the giving of the Word of God to Moses.*

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? *Or* was there a particular verse or message in Acts 2 that inspired you?**
2. **How does Peter use prophecy to explain what has happened to the disciples during this time of Pentecost? See Acts 2:16-21.**

**Acts 2:15-21**

**5**These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.

**16**No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**17**‘It will come to pass in the last days,’ God says, ‘that I will pour out a portion of my spirit
    upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
    your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.
**18**Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. **19**And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke. **20**The sun shall be turned to darkness,
    and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and splendid day of the Lord,
**21**and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.’

1. **What important points does Peter make in verses 15-21? List them.**
2. **Which verses above suggest a *universal salvation*? Compare Acts 2:19-21 to**

**1 Timothy 2:3-6 below.**

**1 Timothy 2:3-63**This is good and pleasing to God our savior, **4**who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. **5**For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human,
**6**who gave himself as ransom for all.

1. **Peter uses prophecy of Joel in his speech. To what does the prophet Joel refer in verses 19-20 above?**
2. **Read Acts 2:22-24. How might these words be offensive to Jewish leaders and members of the Sanhedrin? (The *Sanhedrin* was the Jewish high court in Jerusalem. It was made up of 71 members, including the high priest, tribal leaders and scribes.)**
3. **Peter compares David, the hero and king, to Jesus. What points here are important to Peter’s message to Jerusalem? What is he saying about Jesus Christ here?**

**See Acts 2:25-31.**

**Acts 2:25-31 25**For David says of him:

‘I saw the Lord ever before me,
    with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
**26**Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
    my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
**27**because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
    nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
**28**You have made known to me the paths of life;
    you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

**29**My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. **30**But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, **31**he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption.

1. **How does Peter compare David and Jesus? What point does he make? What conclusion does he make at the end of this speech? See Acts 2:32-36**

 **Acts 2:32-36 32**God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. **33**Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you [both] see and hear. **34**For *David did not go up into heaven*, but he himself said:

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand **35**until I make your enemies your footstool.”’

**36**Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

1. **The people who were touched by Peter’s message were baptized that day. Ultimately, how did this change their lives? See Acts 2:41-47.**

**Acts 2:41-4741**Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

**42**They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. **43**Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44**All who believed were together and had all things in common; **45**they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. **46**Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, **47**praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

1. **At Confirmation we renew our Baptismal vows, are filled with the Holy Spirit, and commit ourselves to being a member of the Holy Church and community. How should our lives be different if we are truly living a Christian and Spirit-filled life?**