

Introductions to Scripture Lesson for Sunday, April 18, 2021

Introduction to the Epistle Lesson: Acts 3:11-19 (NRSV)

In our lesson from the third chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, verses 11-19, Luke tells the story of Peter preaching in the temple. He is giving witness to truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is doing what Jesus called him to do: to spread the word, to share the story of Jesus, the living Christ. Listen to a reading from Acts, chapter 3, verses 11-19:

Reading of the Epistle Lesson: Acts 3:11-19 (NRSV)

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. ¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites,^[a] why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant^[b] Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus^[c] has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ "And now, friends,^[d] I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah^[e] would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Introduction to the Lesson from the Gospels: Luke 24:36-48 (NRSV)

There are a variety of stories in the four gospels about Jesus and the disciples in the 40 days following the resurrection. Two of these stories appear in Matthew; One in Mark; and several in John's gospel. In Luke, Jesus meets two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and following their dramatic meeting, Jesus comes to the disciples while they are talking about Jesus' meeting two of them on the way to Emmaus, and speaks "peace" to

them. As the disciples are talking about two of them meeting Jesus on the way to Emmaus, we read these words from the Gospel of our Lord as found in Luke, chapter 24, verses 36-48

Reading of the Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:36-48 (NRSV)

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”^[a] ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^[b] ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[c] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses^[d] of these things.

LAY READER, AT THE END OF THE GOSPEL, PLEASE:

“This the gospel of our Lord. Amen.”