

Monday, April 20

Acts 4:23-31

After they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, 'Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, 25it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

"Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?
The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah."

For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

Psalms 2

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the Lord and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord: he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the Lord with fear, and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all who take refuge in him!

John 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.