

Where's Your Choir?

Acts 4 1-12



They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

Psalm 22:31

Praising:

Christ is our corner-stone
on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone
the courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love our hopes we
place
of present grace and joys above.

Reading:

Acts 4:1-12

Peter and John are arrested

The priests in control of the temple were usually Sadducees, who denied the resurrection of the dead. To their ears, the preaching of Peter and John about Jesus' resurrection was religious sedition. They had the power to arrest them and put them in custody and they did not hesitate to do so. Presented the next day before the Jewish cohort

to explain themselves, Peter answers their questioning on the basis of what had happened with the healing of the lame man. Yet as he does so, Peter experiences what might be described as a rush or a charge of divine power that comes directly from the Holy Spirit. This is the first of many incidents when the apostles must defend the faith to the authorities, but spiritually speaking, they never do so unaided. Now as then.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray Father that by your Spirit you would always give us the words

- to give an account of what we have come to believe with confidence and gentleness
- to defend and justify the way of Jesus with clarity and patience
- to speak of our own personal transformation in Christ with sincerity and love

Father: as I find myself put on the spot for Jesus, I pray for assurance in your Spirit, that as I open my mouth, the words will all be yours. Words of truth and grace and peace. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 13 April 2016