



*Our Lady of the Fields Church
Scriptural Review & Reflections
Saturday & Sunday May 20 & 21, 2017*

*For more information on any of the parish Faith
Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization
and Faith Formation Office & Staff or
Dr. Little at tlittle@olparish.com*

*This Easter season, we pray you will
discover a new awareness of God's Word
and God's love and presence in your lives
through these reflections.*

**Looking More Deeply into
Our Readings: "Salvation"**

This first public speech of Peter initiates the first small glimpse of the church's developing understanding of the miracle of the cross. It does not begin with discussing some abstract theory of sin or judgment. It begins with a very concrete and specific awareness: "this corrupt generation" is on the road to disaster, but now Jesus stands in the way and can stop us from going over the cliff. Peter's message is clear: "'Stop and be rescued!' You need to turn back, to repent! You need to be baptized, to join the company marked out with the sign of the new Exodus, you need to come through the water and leave behind slavery and sin to find the way to freedom and new life.

In this passage we see the beginning of the Christian theme of **salvation**, which points to a very concrete and particular future reality. The promise is not only about a place, for after death but of a definitive resurrection into God's "new creation." What God had promised for the ultimate future has now come forward to meet us in the risen presence of Jesus Christ. Whatever kind of mess we are in, of whatever sort and for whatever reason, we can now turn back and be rescued by God's son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We need only to repent and be baptized. Bring to God anything from which you need to be rescued and God will act to save **YOU** in and through Christ!

The Acts of the Apostles: A Book for Disciples
Chapters 2:1-2:13

The new age that the apostles awaited began "with a blowing like a violent wind from heaven" filling the whole house where they were sitting. The point of chapter 2 is the Spirit is arriving with God's creative power from heaven begin its work here. And with the wind came the tongues of fire hovering and then resting above each person in the room. This was a Spirit bent on touching and changing all in the room and in the whole world, beginning with the bodies, minds, hearts and lives of these followers of Jesus in this one place.

The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost complements Jesus' ascension into heaven. The risen Lord in heaven is the presence, in God's sphere, of the promised "first part of earth" to be transformed into the foretold "new creation." Now in His resurrected body Jesus joins heaven with earth and in Pentecost the Spirit unites both realms of God, sealing in fire the new union Jesus had achieved. The tongues of fire cleanse and seal all who believe into God's new creation, the direct result of the Lord's ascension.

Peter now stands with the others and responds to the visitors from the whole world who ask: "What does this mean?" He speaks from the prophet, Joel - all of nature is now different by the creation-changing events of Jesus, the Christ and God's Son who though poorly treated by wicked men, now in God's presence fills all with the "Spirit of Joy!"