

Intro Apl 19 2nd Easter

ACTS paints an idyllic picture of the early Xtians. Everyone getting along, sharing everything. Eh?? I wonder, because scattered in ACTS we are told the Hellenistic Xtians were complaining they are not getting their fair share compared to the Hebrew Xtians. [May 10th] Certainly the Early Xtians were filled with an initial fervor but things were probably not that perfect, don't you think?

PSALM 118!!! It should not be a surprise that we continue with the SAME PS 118 from **EASTER**

Basically words right from PSALM 118, in these two versions:

There are other versions of this hymn, but I've listed these two.

"This is the Day the Lord has Made" by Michael Joncas —**with words!** 6/8 rhythm adds a lot.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llgPfEypBP4>

From a *Catholic* Church in *Singapore!* This version by Marty Haugen, an American *Lutheran*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhzc9B_alzw **also with words!**

1st Letter of Peter

Peter's first letter is more realistic than ACTS. 'Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,' we have 'an **inheritance kept in heaven for you**'. But now 'you may have to suffer' and be 'tested by fire' [**or by Covid!**] until you attain the goal of your faith, the '**salvation of your souls**'.

Both Acts and 1 Peter talk about **HOPE**. Peter reminds those Xtians being persecuted by the Romans: We **SUFFER with FAITH in the HOPE** of our reward **to come. Faith + Hope.**

John's Gospel opens with Jesus showing his wounds. Then he sends his Holy Spirit, giving them the power to forgive sins. But 'only God can forgive sins', right! So the Holy Spirit must be **PRESENT** still in His Apostles, in His Church, as Xt promised.

Gospel: Act II. Thomas was not there. He announces: I won't believe till I see for myself!

Act III {minor details! Again as proof} **The doors were locked!** Yet Xt somehow (who knows how?) **stood in their midst** and Thomas put his hand **in the wounds**. Xt was not a ghost; his **BODY** had to—somehow—get through the locked door and be really there.

The key—for US—is. . . **Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."**

Then the stinger [for those who don't know music, a Stinger is the conclusion of the piece: da-dada da daddada —then all instruments full blast—**DA!** Here is John's stinger:

"v30. Now Jesus did many other signs . . . that are not written in this book. 31. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name."

So JOHN himself says "everything" has not been written in the Bible. The "picture", the teaching, which started in Acts with the Apostles, continues today and is found in the Church. It is guaranteed by the **Holy Spirit**. Because: the Spirit (as in Genesis) **breathed over them** and XT said to them, "Receive **the Holy Spirit**. = The Holy **BREATH**, MY & OUR Holy **BREATH** in Greek: **πνεῦμα**", ***the Spirit of Truth**, in the assembly, the ekklesia. [Greek: ἐκκλησία].

{3rd Person of Trinity}

* for. . . "when He, ***the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He** will guide you to all truth" (John 16:12-13)
The Spirit of truth—NOT WAS sent. The Spirit of truth IS still 'sent' and is AMONG US!