

## Notes for Next Sunday

### Trinity Sunday

#### The Point of this Week's Readings

First Reading (Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31). In the first four verses wisdom is personified as a good woman, in stark contrast to the adulterous woman of chapter 7. (TLSB) This points forward to verses 22-31 where the real WISDOM is Christ. Here wisdom is much more than a gift given by God. In this chapter Wisdom is the One in whom the Lord delighted from eternity and with whom God created the universe. That is, the Wisdom of Proverbs 8 is none other than the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God before His incarnation. (LL)

Second Reading (Acts 2:14a, 22-36). The setting is Pentecost, the middle of Peter's sermon. Peter was a total coward when it came to his role in Jesus suffering and death. But, here he steps up in front of a very large and mostly hostile crowd. Verses 22-36 describe a very crushing law-filled sermon that bluntly accuses the Jewish leaders of being responsible for Jesus suffering death. Peter uses quotes from David in Psalm 16 and Psalm 110 speaking about Jesus (vv. 25-28, 34-35). Verse 36 is a summary of Israel's actions concerning Christ's crucifixion and affirming that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. In the verses that follow we see that the law has done its work and Peter quickly showers them with the gospel of forgiveness.

Gospel (John 8:48-59). In this reading we find Jesus in fierce debate with the Jews. They accuse Him of being a Samaritan and demon possessed (v. 48). When Israel (the ten northern tribes) was led into captivity the wealthy and higher class people were deported to Assyria. In their place low class foreigners were imported and inter-married with the Israelites who had been left behind. These people were known as Samaritans. Therefore the Jews sneeringly referred to the Samaritans as half-breeds. Jesus denies their claims and points out that He is doing His Father's work. He is not seeking His own glory but is honoring His Father. They invoke Abraham into the argument and Jesus once again lays their reason to rest. They refuse to believe and in fact pick up stones to kill Him. But, it is not yet time for Jesus to die and so He escapes by hiding from them.

*For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.*

#### FIRST READING – Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

**Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> “To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. <sup>22</sup> “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; <sup>23</sup> I was appointed<sup>d</sup> from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. <sup>24</sup> When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; <sup>25</sup> before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, <sup>26</sup> before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. <sup>27</sup> I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup> when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. <sup>30</sup> Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, <sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.**

Here wisdom is much more than a gift given by God. In this chapter Wisdom is the One in whom the Lord delighted from eternity and with whom God created the universe. That is, the Wisdom of Proverbs 8 is none other than the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God before His incarnation. (LL)

8:27-29 Provides a picture of the first three days of creation (Gn 1:3–10), placing Wisdom there from the creation of the heavens to the creation of the earth's foundations. Wisdom saw it all, from the heights to the depths of creation. (TLSB)

SECOND READING – Acts 2:14a, 22-36

**<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup>” “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.” <sup>29</sup> “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, <sup>d</sup> that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”” <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”**

2:22 *accredited ... by miracles, wonders and signs.* The mighty works done by Jesus were signs that the Messiah had come. (CSB)

2:23 *wicked men.* Jesus was handed over to the Romans, who were not under the yoke of Moses' Law. (TLSB)

2:27 *not abandon me to the grave.* David referred ultimately to the Messiah (v. 31). God would not allow his physical body to decompose.

2:29 *his tomb is here.* The tomb of David could be seen in Jerusalem. It still contained the remains of David's body. (CSB)

GOSPEL – John 8:48-59

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” <sup>49</sup> “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup> At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?” <sup>54</sup> Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup> Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup> “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” <sup>58</sup> “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” <sup>59</sup> At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

*8:48 The Jews.* The phrase occurs about 70 times in this Gospel. Here it refers to the delegation sent by the Sanhedrin to look into the activities of an unauthorized teacher. (CSB)

*8:49 I honor my Father.* Jesus simply denied their charge and pointed to the real problem. He was glorifying His heavenly Father, but the Jews were dishonoring Him. (PBC)

*8:51 never see death.* Experience everlasting death. (TLSB)

*8:58 I am!* A solemnly emphatic declaration echoing God’s great affirmation in Ex 3:14. Jesus did not say “I was” but “I am,” expressing the eternity of his being and his oneness with the Father (see 1:1). With this climactic statement Jesus concludes his speech that began with the related claim, “I am the light of the world” (v. 12). (CSB)

*8:59 to stone him.* Presumably on the grounds that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy (Lev. 24:16). (TLSB)