

Peter's sermon and Paul's speech

After the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost, Peter delivered a sermon to a large crowd of many ethnicities in Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-41). Addressing the Jews, Peter explained what they just witnessed on that day by citing the prophet Joel: "It will come to pass in the last days, God says, that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17, Joel 3:1-5)



Peter declared that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, and that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was both Lord and Messiah. Peter also cited that David himself prophesied Christ's Resurrection from the dead: "he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the underworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses." (Acts 2:31-32)

Peter called the crowd to repent, to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). As a result, those who accepted Peter's message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day (Acts 2:41).

In Athens, Paul became exasperated at the sight of the city full of idols, so he debated in the synagogue with the Jews and with the worshipers, and daily in the public square with whoever happened to be there (Acts 17:16-17). A group of philosophers engaged Paul in discussion, for he was preaching about Jesus and His Resurrection. At the Areopagus, Paul delivered a speech about an "unknown god;" he said, "What therefore you unknowingly worship, I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:23)

Paul's speech appealed to the belief of the Greeks that gods were responsible for the origin and existence of the universe. However, he challenged the belief in a multiplicity of gods who wield powers through their images. Paul proclaimed the true God as the creator of the world and all humanity, that God does not dwell in temples made by human hands, nor is He served by human hands because He needs anything. Rather it is He who gives to everyone life and breath and everything (Acts 17:24-25).

Paul declared to them, "God has overlooked the times of ignorance, but now He demands that all people everywhere repent because He has established a day on which He will judge the world with justice through a man He has appointed, and He has provided confirmation for all by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31) Here, Paul was speaking of Jesus and His Resurrection. But when they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to scoff, but others said, "We should like to hear you on this some other time." And so Paul left them. But some did join him and became believers. (Acts 17:32-34)

Placing Peter's sermon and Paul's speech side by side is not meant to compare which person is greater or more effective. Rather, it shows how God uses people from different backgrounds to bring about what He wills to happen at certain places, times and circumstances. Peter addressing the Jews and Paul addressing the Greeks provide the framework of the special ministries of both Saints Peter and Paul as recognized by the early Church, as Paul would himself attest: "I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter to the circumcised, for the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles." (Gal 2:7-8)

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin
2025 年六月二十九日 June 29, 2025



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have installed new doors at the main foyer and the office entrance. The mechanisms on the old doors were broken and cannot operate properly during an emergency. The new doors bring us to compliance with the safety codes for emergency exit doors. Please avoid propping the doors open when it is very hot outside in order to prevent overworking our HVAC systems. Do not use bricks or plywood to prop the new doors open, as these may damage the doors. If there is a need to prop the door open, please use the door stoppers.

We are offering a Summer Music Camp for our parish children on July 12. We will be teaching the basics of keyboard and teaching our children to sing our Mass songs in Chinese. Please sign up with Long Che Chan. Come and bring your children and let us all learn together!

Prayer List: Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Chu Waitat, Liu Kejiu, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.
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Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		