

Acts 3:12-19ⁱⁱ

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

ⁱⁱ About the First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

The book of the Acts of the Apostles recounts the early growth of the Christian Church. One of the major features of Acts is Luke's use of speeches by principal figures to provide reflection upon and analysis of events. These speeches demonstrate the basic preaching pattern of the apostolic Church to different audiences as the Church moves from the Jewish to the Gentile world.

Today's reading is taken from the second of these discourses, Peter's temple sermon. Set in the context of a healing (3:1-10), it shows that Jesus' ministry continues in the apostles. The sermon begins with the basic proclamation about Jesus' death and resurrection. This kernel is then fleshed out in a longer section identifying Jesus with various Old Testament figures.