

Bringing it Home For Sunday, April 12, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



In our first Bible reading today, Peter, who was one of Jesus's closest friends, preached to a crowd in Jerusalem.

In the middle of a wonderful sermon about Jesus being raised from the dead, Peter blamed his fellow Israelites for Jesus's crucifixion.

This wasn't fair.

Some -- but not all -- of the Judean leaders thought Jesus was dangerous. After all, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, and then crowds cheered Jesus on Palm Sunday. They wanted him to be king.

So those leaders were afraid of an uprising by the people, and then the Romans would destroy the city. They arranged with Judas -- another one of Jesus's friends -- to arrest Jesus and turn him over to the Romans, who crucified him.

Yes, some of the local people wanted Jesus to be crucified. But I'd bet they weren't all in the crowd Peter was preaching to.

Have you ever been in a group where one person does something wrong and everyone gets blamed? How does

that make you feel?

It can be easy to judge people based on the groups they belong to. Red Sox fans? Yankee fan? Black? White? Muslim? Hindu?

When we judge people before we know them, we aren't being fair. We don't like it when other people treat us that way. Let's try to do better.

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us, and for showing us how to love each other. Teach us to be fair and kind when we meet new people. Help us to be good neighbors. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Acts 2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Artwork: “The risen Christ,” model and cast by Antonio Susini (Italian, 1558–1624 Florence) , probably after a design by Giambologna (Netherlandish, Douai 1529–1608 Florence). From the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.