



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 29

[Worship]

1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. 7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. 9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" 10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. 11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Consider:

[Words]

In the Isaiah reading, God's servant is an answer to the waiting of the world. Three times it is asserted that the servant will do "justice" among the nations (42:1, 3, 4). That justice will be concerned with the healing and rehabilitation of the blind and prisoners, representative of those not given a fair deal by the world.

Jesus' baptism marks him as the one who will do God's good pleasure. In the bold preaching of Peter, Jesus is acknowledged as "Lord of all" (Acts 10:36) who has power to heal and to overcome the power of evil (verse 38), and grant forgiveness (verse 43). God's power for life, invested in Jesus, is stronger than the power of death. Jesus is the vehicle of God's rule that yields all that is needed for the well being of the world.

Psalm 29 is a grand doxology of God's rule that overrides the chaos of the flood and ends in shalom (verses 10-11). These readings all together ponder God's resolve for the world and locate it in the life of Jesus. The gospel offer of shalom for the world contradicts the nullification of the world on its deathliness. It is the glorious contradiction that is the ground of faith and the opening for action among those who sign on with this one in whom God is well pleased. – Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reread Matthew 3:13-17