
26 Thursday

THURSDAY, SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 5: 27-33

Psalm 33: 2,9, 17-18, 19-20

Jn 3: 31-36

Word count: 29

Not long after Jesus' resurrection, His disciples had already found themselves at odds with the authorities of the State. A situation that's repeated itself many times, in many places, ever since, and still exists in our 21st century of Christianity. And of course it's not only Christians who've had this experience. We pray for peace and harmony and concord within our country and our society, and for mutual respect and understanding between peoples and nations. Perhaps we may even have a bias towards accepting the authority of elders, of rulers, of those who have power over our lives. And hopefully we can live in peace with all people of good will. But, as Jesus' disciples found (and many others too), people in power and authority can in practice claim to be almost divine in their wisdom and power and control. Then obedience to God and His word has to come before obedience to human custom or vanity or presumption. This was the explanation of Peter and the apostles for their refusal to keep quiet about Jesus and who He was and what He did, and about the authorities' part in Jesus' death. They gave a "witness" to God's power and Jesus being alive, proclaiming something they passionately knew and believed, and which they felt impelled to proclaim in the power of the Holy Spirit. Fury and violence was the unbelieving response.

Lord Jesus, let our faith in your Resurrection give us grace to live in peace and harmony with others, to share your love, and to have courage to proclaim you alone as our Lord and master

[text word-count: 267]