

283 Pentecost

Acts 2:1-13

When Pentecost came, they were all assembled
And winds from heaven blew that the house trembled.

Then rested over them tongues as of fire,
To light them up and never to expire.

Then each of them was with the Holy Spirit filled
And spoke in foreign tongues just as the Spirit willed.

Nearby lived righteous men from every nation
Who came to hear this noise, this acclamation,

And, shockingly, they understood each word,
For in their native language it was heard.

They said, "In truth are Galileans here,
Yet my own tongue is what has reached my ear.

For we are Partheans, Arabs, and Elamites.
Asians, Medes, and Romans, both Jews and proselytes,

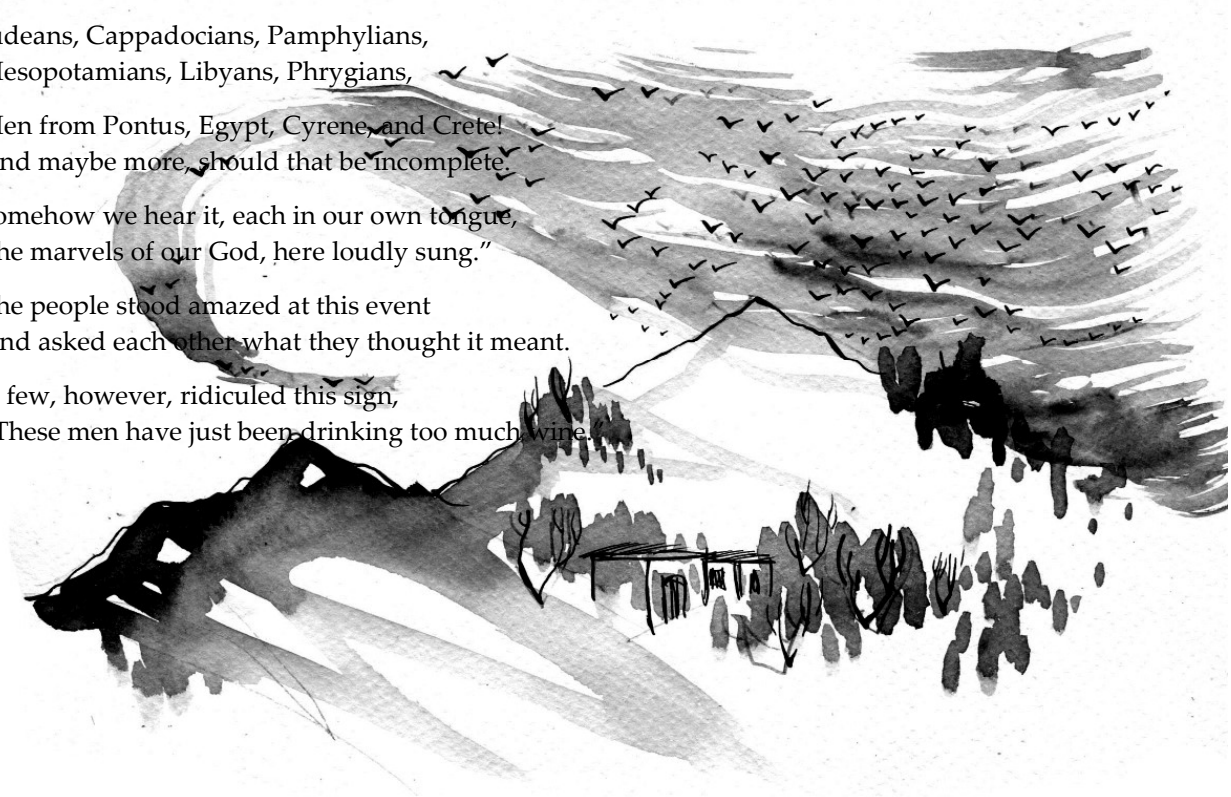
Judeans, Cappadocians, Pamphylians,
Mesopotamians, Libyans, Phrygians,

Men from Pontus, Egypt, Cyrene, and Crete!
And maybe more, should that be incomplete.

Somehow we hear it, each in our own tongue,
The marvels of our God, here loudly sung."

The people stood amazed at this event
And asked each other what they thought it meant.

A few, however, ridiculed this sign,
"These men have just been drinking too much wine."



284 Peter's address to the crowd
Acts 2:14-36

Then Peter stood with them and with a voice most loud,
Attested to the Spirit's work before the crowd,

"You men who live here, though you hail from far away,
Hear every word. Make no mistake on what I say.

We've had no drink, it being the third hour,
But acted as the Lord has given power.

For as the prophet foretold, 'In the final days,
I shall pour our My Spirit as the sun its rays,²⁵²

On all humanity, and this the Lord declares.
For your children a prophet's tongue shall then be theirs.

Your young men shall see visions while your old dream dreams.
Your male and female slaves shall also feel My beams,



And from them most prophetic words you'll know.
Great wonders in the heavens I will show

And signs on earth, signs greater than the flood.
The sun will turn to black, the moon to blood

When comes God's day, a day both terrible and great.
Who calls on God's name this day will see heaven's gate.'²⁵³

You men of Israel, hear what I say:
Jesus of Nazareth was sent our way

By God, with many wondrous works and signs,
That as you walk, a light among you shines.

You saw all this, how they delivered Him to die.
This was God's plan, and thus did prophets prophesy.

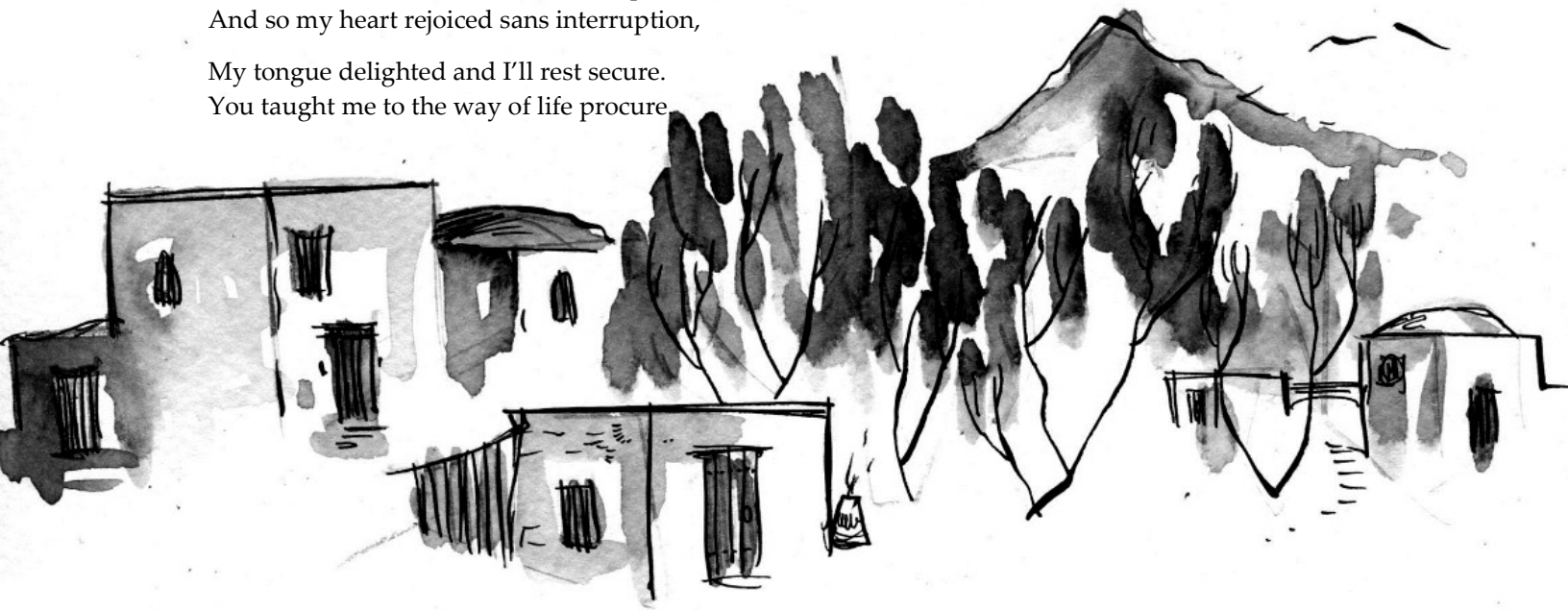
You had Him killed by men outside the law.
So God raised Him to life, from death's cold claw.

For Hades could not hold Him by its power,
As David drew him, 'I seek God each hour.

With Him at my right hand, I'll stand unshaken,
That I will not in Hades be forsaken,

Nor shall He let His own suffer corruption,
And so my heart rejoiced sans interruption,

My tongue delighted and I'll rest secure.
You taught me to the way of life procure



With you I shall be filled with such elation.^{'254}
We'll all agree, and with no hesitation,
That David's dead and buried, for his tomb is here.
But prophets know God's promises are most sincere
And God had sworn that one from his seed grown
Would be the one inheriting his throne.
He spoke not as a mirror gives reflection,
But of the Christ and of His resurrection.
He is the one from Hades swept away,
The one whose body suffered not decay.
God raised Him back to life, and all of this we saw.
Then He was lifted by the giver of the Law
To God's right hand, and having gained the Spirit,
Outpoured It here, that you now see and hear It.
Although in heaven David had not walked his feet,
He said, 'The Lord declared to my Lord, "Take your seat,
Prepared at My right hand, where you might rest with ease,
Till I make you a footstool from your enemies."^{'255}
By all of Israel this shall not be denied,
This Lord God made is Jesus, whom you crucified."

285 **The First Conversions**

Acts 2:37-42

Now, hearing this, their hearts were cut right through,
And they asked Peter, "What are we to do?"

"Repent of all the sins you've now realized
And in the name of Jesus be baptized.

Then, from your sinfulness you'll gain reprieve.
You, too, will the Holy Spirit receive!

God's promise is for you, your kids, those far away,
For He is calling all back to Himself today!"

He spoke much more, with great argumentation,
"Save yourselves from this sinful generation!"

They were baptized, accepting every word.
That very day three thousand joined their herd.



286 **The Early Christian Community** **Acts 2:43-47**

They held true to the teachings and the brotherhood,
To breaking bread as kin, and praying for the good.

And the apostles left them filled with awe
When signs and miracles the faithful saw.

The brethren all sold everything that they possessed
And everything was doled out, more to those hard-pressed,

For all they owned they shared with all communally.
And with one heart they went to Temple constantly.

They met in houses for the breaking of the bread,
Where food was freely shared and praises to God said.

Then all admired how their company behaved
And daily did God add to those who would be saved.

