

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, May 31st, 2026
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Not Ours, But His: The Power of Christ in His Church
Trinity Sunday
Acts 3:1-10

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, let us gather in the presence of the Lord our God.

We come to worship the One who made heaven and earth.

The Lord is faithful in all His words and gracious in all His works.

His mercy endures forever, and His faithfulness reaches to all generations.

Let us lift our hearts above the cares of this world.

We fix our eyes upon the Lord, our refuge and our strength.

Let us offer Him the praise that is due His holy name.

We will worship the Lord with gladness and rejoice in His salvation.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Almighty and Everliving God,
we praise You as the author of life
and the restorer of all that sin has broken.

You have not abandoned Your people,
but continue to act powerfully through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We invoke Your presence now in this time of worship.
Meet us in our devotion,
stir our hearts,
and display Your glory among us today.

May our worship rise as a sweet incense before Your throne,
offered in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is holy, and we are a needy people.
 He knows our thoughts before we speak them, our failures before we name them, and our sins before we confess them.
 Yet He is merciful and kind, and He does not invite us to hide from Him but to come honestly before Him.
 So let us humble ourselves together, confessing our sins with grief, with sincerity, and with hope.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord,
 we confess that we are spiritually helpless against the weight of our sin without Your grace.
 Like generations before us,
 we acknowledge that we are bound by our sinful nature
 and unable to free ourselves by our own power.
 We have chased after the silver and gold of this world,
 mistakenly believing it could solve our deepest brokenness.
 Forgive us for neglecting the ordinary means of grace
 for downplaying prayer,
 worship,
 fellowship,
 and Your Word.
 Forgive us for turning our eyes away from the suffering of others to avoid personal discomfort.

Reach down in Your mercy,
 heal our bitter hearts,
 and raise us up from spiritual death so that we may walk in obedience and holiness.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Salvation and hope are found in no other name under heaven than Jesus Christ. He loved us first and sought us out while we were still helpless. To all who humbly turn to Him in faith, He provides lasting transformation, restores our relationship with God, and makes us His children. In Christ, you are forgiven, redeemed, and made whole. Walk forth in His peace!

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
 Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
 Give us this day our daily bread
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever, Amen.**

Hymn: Your Will be Done" (V 1,2,4)

Your will be done, my God and Father
 As in heaven, so on earth
 My heart is drawn to self-exalting
 Help me seek Your kingdom first
 As Jesus walked, so I shall walk
 Held by Your same unchanging love
 Be still my soul, O lift your voice and pray:
 'Father, not my will but Yours be done'

How in that Garden he persisted
 I may never fully know
 The fearful weight of true obedience
 It was held by him alone
 What wondrous faith, to bear that cross!
 To bear my sin, what wondrous love!
 My hope was sure, when there my Saviour prayed:
 'Father, not my will but Yours be done'

As we go forth, our God and Father
 Lead us daily in the fight
 That all the world might see Your glory
 And Your Name be lifted high
 And in this Name we overcome
 For You shall see us safely home
 Now as your church, we lift our voice and pray:
 'Father, not my will but Yours be done! '

Responsive Reading

Psalm 103:1-6

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 and all that is within me,
 bless his holy name!

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and forget not all his benefits,

3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

**4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**6 The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Anthem (Music Ministry): "This Offering of Praise"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Acts 3:1-10

3 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Sermon

There are moments in this life when everything seems to be perfectly normal, and then suddenly, without any warning, God steps in and changes everything.

Maybe it is an ordinary conversation, that suddenly becomes the means of Salvation. Perhaps it is a routine visit with a friend that suddenly turns into a divine appointment to share the Gospel. Or maybe, just maybe, it is a simple act of obedience, that creates the setting to display God's power in your life to anyone who is paying attention.

Acts chapter 3 records one of those moments. It begins quietly, there is no sound of a great rushing wind, there are no tongues of fire. There are not crowds of thousands gathered to hear the Word of God.

Instead, we are presented with two faithful disciples walking to a prayer meeting and a crippled beggar sitting where he had sat every day for the majority of his life.

Yet by the end of this ordinary everyday encounter that same lame man is walking, leaping, and praising God, a crowd has gathered in amazement, and the glory of the risen Christ is being displayed for all to see.

There is an important lesson for us here. The same Jesus who poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is still at work. Even though he has ascended into heaven, He has not abandoned His people. Jesus continues to act through the ministry of His church.

The book of Acts is not simply the record history for what the apostles accomplished after the ascension of Jesus Christ. It is the continuing story of what Christ is doing in this world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It begins simply enough

Acts 3:1

³ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

The ninth hour is around 3pm, and Peter and John were on their way to prayer. There is nothing extraordinary happening here, just two faithful disciples on their way to worship and pray, the ordinary life of a follower.

The excitement of Pentecost had not changed their regular routine of praise, prayer and worship. They remained devoted to all of the same spiritual practices that they had taken part in before the day the Holy Spirit arrived, echoing what was taught in Acts chapter 2, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

This is a clear reminder for us that the Christian life is not sustained by constant excitement but by a faithful dependence on God.

This truth is important for us today because too often people only search for God in the dramatic moments of their life. They believe that spiritual growth requires extraordinary experiences.

Yet, repeatedly throughout the Scriptures, God works through ordinary faithfulness. Personal revival often begins in personal prayer. Great movements of God in our lives, often emerge from our simple acts of obedience.

Peter and John had no idea as they walked towards the temple that afternoon that they were about to become instruments in one of the most remarkable miracles recorded in the book of Acts. They were simply doing what any faithful disciple would be doing, seeking God in prayer.

I wonder how many of God's blessings, we miss in our lives because we are busy looking for the big moments and we look past the ordinary means of work which God has called for us to do. How often do we miss out on opportunities of spiritual development and growth because we are neglecting the ordinary means of grace in our lives; prayer, worship, the Word of God and fellowship. This miracle reminds us that God often meets His people in the ordinary pathways of Christian life.

As Peter and John approach the temple, another figure appears.

Acts 3:2-3

²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

A man who had been lame from birth is being carried to the gate called Beautiful. The Scripture makes it clear this is not a temporary injury. This man had never run, never walked, never jumped. In fact, he had never even stood on his own two feet.

Later we will learn that this man is forty years old. For more than four decades he had lived without the ability to get anywhere on his own. For more than four decades someone had carried him to the temple every day so that he could beg from those entering the temple for worship.

The contrast between the man and his surrounds is striking. The gate where this lame man sat was considered one of the most magnificent entrances into Jerusalem. Ancient historians describe it as an enormous gate that was made of Corinthian bronze that shone brightly in the sunlight and was admired by all who saw it.

It was masterpiece of human craftsmanship, a pinnacle of human construction, and at the base sat a man who was broken. There is a lesson here. Humans can create impressive structures, develop incredible technologies and achieve extraordinary accomplishments, but they cannot solve the deepest issues of the human condition. The world can create beauty, but it cannot cure brokenness. It can polish the exterior, but it cannot transform the soul.

In many ways this lame man represent what mankind is like without Christ in their lives. His physical condition mirrors our spiritual condition. In the same way that he is unable to walk, mankind is unable to save themselves. There is no way to be brought back to spiritual life except though Jesus Christ.

The Bible's description of the human condition is much more serious than many people understand. Our problem is not just ignorance or lack of opportunity; it is our sinful nature. We are separated from God and there is nothing we can do to repair that relationship on our own.

Augustine knew this truth well. He described fallen humanity as being bound by their sin, unable to free themselves from their own sinful nature.

The truth is not just that we are weakened by sin, we are spiritually helpless against it without the grace of God.

Just like that lame man at the gate, we are dependant upon someone else to save us. Our Salvation needs to come from somewhere else, Jesus Christ.

The lame man had come to the temple that day seeking money, a few coins to make his life a little more bearable. As Peter and John walked towards him, he did what he had done countless times before. He stretched out his hands and asked for alms, he expected nothing as usual, his expectations were based upon his experience. After forty years of disappointment, he had learned not to hope for too much, all he was looking for was a few days relief from his circumstances, he had no idea that God intended for something so much greater to happen in his life.

Acts 3:4-5

⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

Peter tells the man to look at them, it is an easy detail to overlook, but it is an important one. Most people refused to make eye contacts with beggars. It was easier to just not engage with them, not even to acknowledge them.

The world has not changed. Go to any big city and you can watch people walk past the homeless and suffering, refusing to make eye contact. Refusing to acknowledge the pain and the suffering that they are walking past, because it might cause some discomfort in their lives.

Peter and John do the opposite. They stop and look upon the man, they truly see him for what he is, a lost child of God.

This is a beautiful picture of the grace of God. Before the man has ever asked for anything, God's grace has found him. Before the man can ever really understand that his spiritual need is so much greater than his physical needs, Christ is already moving towards him.

Salvation always begins with God moving first. The Gospel is not a story about people seeking God. It is the story of God seeking sinners. We love him, because he loved us first. We come to him because He called us out of the darkness. We respond to him in praise, worship and service, because he acted first to save us.

The beggar fixes his eyes upon Peter and John expecting to receive a sum of coins from them. Perhaps he thought that these two men would provide them with enough money to ease his hardships for a few days.

However, God's plans were much bigger. The same is true in our lives. We often come before God asking for something that we think we need in our lives, and yet he intends to give us something far greater. We ask for some comfort in this world, and he intends to bring us to holiness. We ask for temporary relief from the trial, tribulations and sins in our life, and he intends to bring us back to spiritual life and provide us with lasting transformation. We ask for worldly blessings, and he intends to give us Himself and eternal Salvation.

Then comes one of the most profound verses in the book of Acts.

Acts 3:6

⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

Peter acknowledges his own poverty, acknowledges that he possesses no wealth, no great treasures, no financial resources. Yet he is not poor, for he possesses something far greater than mere silver and gold. He possesses Jesus Christ.

Throughout history Christians have recognized the significance of these words. The church's true power has never been in its material wealth, worldly influence or prestige and reputation.

The church's power lies in Christ alone.

Even if a church has magnificent buildings, even if a church runs impressive programs, even if it has abundant resources, if it loses sight of Jesus, it becomes spiritually bankrupt.

On the other hand, a congregation that has almost nothing but that is rich in the truth of the Word of God possesses an eternal treasure.

Notice that Peter does not act in his own authority. He declares that what he is doing he does, 'In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.'

Remember that by doing so Peter is attaching himself to the authority, character and power of Jesus Christ. This is not some mythical thing or magical show. This is a faithful believer, representing his master. Peter is saying that everything I do, I do through the power, ability and authority of Jesus. The apostles were merely instruments through whom the risen Lord chose to work in this world.

The title that Peter chooses to use also matters. 'Jesus of Nazareth'. He is doing so to remind us that Nazareth was a term of contempt, that little insignificant town that had such a bad reputation. Peter declares the name boldly. The despised Nazarene in that exalted King, The

One whom man had rejected was now the One who sat on the throne in heaven and reigned over heaven and earth.

Peter wants to make it perfectly clear, what is about to happen is not anything that he is doing, it is because of the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ.

Notice what happens next.

Acts 3:7-8

⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

Peter reaches down and takes the man by the right hand. There is remarkable confidence in his actions. Peter does not proclaim the healing and then wait to see if God does the work. He proclaims the healing and then reaches out and lifts the man to his feet. He has absolute confidence in the Lord who has sent him.

Luke tells us that the man's feet and ankles were made strong. Remember that Luke was a doctor, he chooses his words carefully here using medical terms to describe what occurred. Muscle that's had never supported weight were suddenly capable of supporting him. Ankles which had never worked suddenly functioned properly. This was not a gradual improvement over time; it wasn't some form of therapy or rehabilitation. It was an act of divine recreation. The God who had formed humanity in the beginning was restoring what had been broken.

The result was both immediate and unmistakable. The man leaped up, he stood and he walked.

Then he did something else, he walked into the temple with Peter and John.

Imagine that for a moment, you and I in the temple worshiping and suddenly the lame man who has been sitting begging for alms in front of the temple for close to forty years is now suddenly running and leaping through the temple court. Praise is pouring from his lips, joy is clear in his heart, and the miracle is evident to all.

Luke's description here echoes Isaiah 35:6, 'Then shall the lame man leap like a deer.'

This was more than a simple healing; it was a clear sign that the promised King was upon the throne. The prophets had foretold of the day when God's Salvation would bring restoration and joy. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Day of Salvation had come.

What is especially beautiful is man's response to his sudden change of life. He does not praise and thank Peter. He does not glorify the work of the apostles.

He praises God. True grace always points to God.

When Christ transforms a life, worship follows. The purpose of salvation is not just to improve our worldly circumstances. It is to restore our relationship with God. The healed man immediately joins the worshipping community because grace has made him a child of God, giving him access to a kingdom he could never get into on his own.

And that catches the attention of people.

Acts 3:9-10

⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The people were astonished by what they saw. They knew the man, they probably knew his whole life story. Many of them had likely walked past him that day averting their eyes so as to not engage with him like they had so many times before. So, there could be no doubt about what had happened. His transformation was undeniable. His miracle is a public testimony to the power of the Risen Lord.

The same truth remains in the world today. While God might not always heal physical ailments, He continues to transform lives through His Word.

When proud sinners become humble, when bitter hearts learn to forgive, when a life of despair finds hope, and when those who are enslaved into a life of sin begin to walk in obedience and holiness, the world witnesses the evidence of Christ's transformative power in this world.

The changed life of a believer is one of the strongest testimonies to the reality of the Gospel.

This miracle is amazing and it is easy to get caught up in the spectacle. However, we need to remember that every miracle points to something even greater.

The lame man needed physical healing, but everyone in this world needs spiritual healing. He needed strength in his legs; we all need new hearts. He needed to be raised up from the ground; we all need to be brought back to life from spiritual death.

The miracle at the beautiful gate points to the reality of God's salvation.

Before Christ stepped into our lives, we were like that beggar. We were helpless, hopeless and broken. We were unable to save ourselves. We are dependent entirely upon His mercy. Entirely dependent upon a Risen Lord who reaches out to us in His grace.

A Risen Lord who is still reaching out to sinners in the world today.

A Risen Lord who is still bringing life to the spiritually dead.

A Risen Lord who is still restoring what sin had broken.

And a Risen Lord who still calls for people to pick up their cross and follow him.

So, may we never place our trust in the silver and gold of this world. May we never believe that human strength can accomplish what only God's grace can do.

Instead, let us trust humbly, fully and completely in Jesus Christ, who is far more valuable than anything in this world.

For there is power in no other name.

There is salvation in no other name.

There is hope in no other name.

The same Jesus of Nazareth who transformed a lame beggar outside the temple gate continues to save, to restore and redeem in the world today.

And because he lives, there is hope for every sinner who comes to him and walks in faith.

So let us all go forth with joy in our hearts and leap like deer as we proclaim his glory and walk as the Salt and Light of His Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us pray,

Grant, Almighty God,

that as You have been pleased to make known Your will to us
and to speak to us through Your truth,
we may not receive it in vain.

Subdue our proud hearts and wandering minds by Your Spirit,
that we may humbly submit ourselves to You,
and so receive what You set before us
with reverence, faith, and obedience.

Cause Your Word to take deep root within us,
that it may bear fruit in our lives—
not only in outward obedience,
but in sincere devotion of heart.

Keep us from being distracted
by the cares of this world,
the desires of the flesh,
or the deceitfulness of sin;
but strengthen us to persevere in the path of righteousness.

And as You continuously call us to Yourself,
grant that we may daily grow in faith,
more fully rest in Your mercy,

and more faithfully walk in Your ways,
 until at last we are gathered into Your eternal kingdom,
 where we shall enjoy the fullness of Your presence forever.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

John Calvin

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn: "On Eagles Wings"

You who dwell
 in the shelter of the Lord
 Who abide in His shadow for life
 Say to the Lord,
 "My refuge,
 my rock in whom I trust!"

Chorus

And He will raise you up
 on eagles' wings
 Bear you on the breath of dawn
 Make you to shine like the sun
 And hold you
 in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler
 will never capture you
 And famine will bring you no fear
 Under His wings your refuge,
 His faithfulness your shield (Chorus)

For to His angels
 He's given a command
 To guard you in all of your ways
 Upon their hands
 they will bear you up
 Lest you dash your foot against a stone

And He will raise you up
 on eagles' wings
 Bear you on the breath of dawn
 Make you to shine like the sun
 And hold you
 in the palm of His hand (Chorus)

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious and faithful God,
 we thank You for the mercy that has met us,
 for the truth that has been proclaimed,
 and for the grace that continues to sustain us.

You know our hearts, our burdens, our struggles, and our joys.
 You know where we are weak, and where we are in need of Your help.
 And so we ask: carry with us what You have begun among us this day.

Let Your word take root deeply within us.
 Let it shape our thoughts, order our steps,
 quiet our fears, and strengthen our faith.
 Guard us from forgetfulness,
 and keep us near to You in all that we do.

We pray for Your church:
 that You would unite us in love,
 establish us in truth,
 and make us steadfast in faithful obedience.
 Let us be a people marked not by our strength,
 but by Your grace at work within us.

We lift before You those who are suffering—
 those who are weary, discouraged, ill, grieving, or burdened.
 Be near to them as the God of all comfort.
 Sustain them with Your presence,
 and remind them that they are not alone.

And now, as we move into a time of fellowship together,
 we ask for Your blessing upon it.
 May our conversations be edifying,
 our words be gracious,
 and our hearts be sincere.

Deepen our love for one another.
 Strengthen the unity of Your people here.

Let this shared time be not merely social,
but a reflection of the communion we have in You.

In all things, may You be honored among us—
in our worship, in our words, and in our fellowship.

We ask all of this in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Benediction

Go forth into the world with joy in your hearts,
ready to praise God in all circumstances.

May the Lord raise you up to walk in holiness,
obedience, and bold faith.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**