



“The Apostles Peter and Paul”, in a detail of a cupola fresco created 1520-24 by Correggio in the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista, Parma. © Web Gallery of Art. In the Anglican calendar, Sunday will be the saints day honoring Saints Peter and Paul. In the Roman Church, Sunday will be the saints day for St. Peter. In the Collect Sunday, we will acknowledge that God built his Church “on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone”. In the Gospel lesson we’ll be urged to welcome and identify with God’s prophets and to follow the apostles’ example in taking up our cross to follow Christ, as they did, even at the cost of our lives, as at the cost of theirs.

### Don’t Be Surprised, and Don’t Be Afraid, When You Meet Opposition

“Last week in the Gospel lesson Jesus commissioned the twelve apostles to go, to preach, to heal, to exorcise demons, to raise the dead, to minister, to carry on his work, because the needs were so great and the workers were so few,” the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon Sunday. “And by extension, of course, his commission extends to the Church today.

“Now one might conclude from this,” he continued, as the apostles “likely did, that troubles and difficulty would now be a thing of the past. After all, Jesus gave them real authority to do some amazing stuff.

“But, alas, not so. Jeremiah definitely found this to be true,” Pastor Thelander said, for he was beaten, imprisoned, charged with blasphemy, and beaten and imprisoned again. “Faced with this situation, Jeremiah abandons all courtesy and engages God in serious conversation. He says, ‘Lord, you persuaded me. You talked me into this whole thing. Now I am mocked by everyone in the city. Your messages have made me a household joke. So you know what I’ve decided, Lord? I’ve decided to scrap this whole thing. I’m just going to keep my mouth shut. I’m not going to mention you any more. I just won’t tell people what you have to say to them. I’ll just shut my yap, and then these yahoos won’t have old Jeremiah to kick around any more.’

“And at that point the Psalmist joins the conversation and says, ‘Right on, Jeremiah! You think *you* have it bad! Let me tell you what’s happening to me! I’ve tried to serve the Lord faithfully. I’ve been zealous for his house, and I worship every time the doors are open. I fast and practice the spiritual disciplines. . . . And for what? I have more enemies than hairs on my head. People are lying about me and spreading malicious rumors. My own family won’t have anything to do with me.’ . . .

“These Scripture lessons remind us today that there will be times in your life where you will feel totally overwhelmed as you try to be a faithful Christian, times where you will . . . come out feeling like you are in the flood waters and about to go under, times when you will meet opposition . . .

“Whether it is Jeremiah, the Psalmist, the apostles, or sometimes us, suffering and opposition are sometimes the direct result of our calling to bear witness to the Kingdom of God. What does Jesus have to say to all of this? Just two things, I think: First, he says, (p.2→)

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Sundays, 10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service

Sundays, 11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

Sundays, 11:45 a.m.: Moderated post-service discussion

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.: Evening Prayers

**For the poor:** Meat; fresh produce; canned fruits and vegetables; dairy products; peanut butter; cooking oil; pancake mix; syrup; spices; diapers; baby wipes; bathroom tissue; for personal care: soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream; new underwear (adults and children); cleaning supplies; bleach.

**Readings, 6/29:** Is. 2:6-17; Ps. 89:1-18; Rom. 6:1-11; Mt. 10: 34-42. **7/6:** Zech. 9:9-12; Ps. 145:8-14; Rom. 7:21—8:6; Mt. 11:25-30.

**Prayer Emphases:** Portugal; Progressive National Baptists; Potomac, IL, Church of the Nazarene, and the Rev. Gary Richardson; Wycliffe Bible Translators; parishioners on Northview Street.

**(Sermon, cont’d.)** ‘Don’t be surprised.’ Second, he says, ‘Don’t be afraid.’ Don’t be surprised, . . . because the servant is not greater than the master, and the student is not greater than the teacher. And the master and teacher often was treated like dirt, so don’t expect your fate to be much different. The second thing Jesus tells us is this—it is so important that he repeats it three times in this short passage— . . . ‘Don’t be afraid. . . . Don’t be afraid of those whose power is limited to the physical realm and to this world only. Instead, fear and honor God, whose power is ultimate and eternal.’ God ‘grounds you securely in the hollow of his hand and in the center of his will.’ ”