

Providence Always Present Monday within the Octave of Easter April 17, 2017
8:15 AM **Acts 2:14, 22-33;** Mt 28:8-15 (God is only the first cause of everything, but there are all kinds of other causes to create the world of our actual experience.)

“This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.”

This is what we call a retrospective; in fact **the whole New Testament is a retrospective.** It does not tell us what happened at the moment it was happening. We don't have that. **We have the reflection of the faith community** pondering the mysteries of God and the stories they have of Jesus and his passion, and then reflecting on this. **Luke**, the author of Acts of the Apostles, then **gives a speech in Peter's name.**

Now the point is **we are living our lives in the present moment in what is called real time, but we also can put our life into retrospective.** Our lives are also in the providence of God. **God is caring for us at every moment**, but we can't see in the present moment exactly what God is doing. But **retrospectively we can reflect backwards over our lives.** We can see that even periods of great trial were actually periods of great grace, when we may have felt abandoned, but nonetheless this was all part of divine providence. We were being cared for in a way perhaps we didn't see, probably didn't see. And this is what faith should help us do, is to look back on our lives and to **see how we got through moments of darkness.**

No one is spared moments of darkness. No one is spared trials; we are not supposed to be. Those are proving moments. **Either we willingly respond to the grace of God** and learn how to depend upon God realizing our own weaknesses, **or we fall on our faces trying always to sustain ourselves** until finally we have no choice but to depend on God. **One way or the other, we get to God.**

And we can say it's all **with God's foreknowledge**, not meaning that God is actually causing it. **God is only the first cause of everything, but there are all kinds of other causes** including her own wills, the wills of other people, all sorts of things interacting, the laws of nature, the way things happen, the weather. All kinds of things interact **to create the world of our actual experience.** But through all this, while observing and honoring our freedom, **God is always there with his love and his concern.** The more we ponder this great mystery, the more we can walk through life with a sense of God's care.