

God's Salvation Plan  
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"This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." - Acts 2:23

The crucifixion was a horrible and terrifying thing. Every person in the temple hearing Peter preach knew that in a way we can't understand. They saw crucifixions, they knew what they were like. There was not a more horrible fate that they could have thought of. Then, to have the guilt of this murder placed squarely upon your head, the weight of that would be crushing. It would be understandable if the people there were left with nothing but utter despair.

And yet, Peter points out that this happened to Jesus according to the "definite plan and foreknowledge of God." Even as the people there see the utter horror of what takes place, Peter reminds them that God is in control and working for their salvation. Even as they see the depth of their sin, Peter reminds them that God knew this would happen and still works out their salvation. Of course He does, because that's the loving God that our God is!

In our lives, we face our own fears and horrors. We come up against crushing guilt of our own that would paralyze us. And when we look only at these things, our shock can overwhelm us. Yet we remember that while sin and its impacts might knock us for a loop, they don't surprise God. Even before we were born, God already worked out a definite plan for our salvation. Even before we were born, God knew that He would redeem us and claim us as His own in Holy Baptism. Jesus really has forgiven you!