



JUSTIFIED

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

OUR WORSHIP

Convicting the World of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment

SERVICE THEME Jesus says, “The Holy Spirit will *convict* the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.” This, in my view, is the only place in the New Testament where Jesus tells us about the work of the Holy Spirit outside of the Church. And this three-fold conviction of the Holy Spirit is a message that turns the world upside down in Jesus’ disciples’ day as well as our own. It is a message the Church desperately needs to hear and needs to communicate to our world today.

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God’s Word +

INVOCATION

Pastor: When I am Baptized *into* the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, I am buried with Christ Jesus, that is, I daily die to the source of my sin – trusting in myself rather than in Christ Jesus’ death in my place. And, in that same Baptism, I am raised with Christ Jesus to newness of Life, that is, I experience the power of my Father’s gift of perfect righteousness through faith in Christ Jesus’ death and resurrection to defeat sin, death, and the power of the Devil, for Satan has been judged in Christ Jesus’ death and resurrection.

People: AMEN!

BAPTISM SONG *“Baptized in Water” [tune: Schonster Herr Jesu]*

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, Trusting His promise,
Faithfully now God’s praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with His rising, Freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:
Born of one Father, We are His children,
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

CONFESSION

Pastor: All of our failings and our failures are because the Holy Spirit has not convicted us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment through the preaching of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. And, the reason the Christian Church is not making much of an impact in the world is because the Church has not proclaimed the Message saturated with the Holy Spirit that convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

People: LORD, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Surely you know, don't you, that all of us who have been Baptized have been buried with Christ Jesus through Baptism. Our old sinful nature was crucified with Christ Jesus so that we are no longer slaves to sin; for whoever has died with Christ Jesus is freed, that is, justified from sin. Also, you do know, don't you, that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of that same one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of trusting in Christ's obedience, that is, His enduring horrible suffering and torturous death, that we might be perfectly righteous in Him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *LSB 948 – "All Glory Be to God Alone*

**All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest One,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.**

**We praise You, God, Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.
Of Your great glory do we sing, And to the throne our thanks we bring.**

**Lord God, our King on heaven's throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.
O Lord, the sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
True God from all eternity. O Lamb of God, to You we flee.**

**You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world's sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day,
From God's right hand Your mercy send,
To all the world Your grace extend.**

**You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father's majesty.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Father, send Your Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; for only when we are so convicted will our lives display these Life-saving truths to our world. And, Father, may Your Church always preach and teach a Spirited Message that convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, the same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People. Amen!

+ Hearing God's Word +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm 32:1-5 [NASB]*

Pastor: How blessed is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven,

People: Whose sin is covered!

Pastor: How blessed is a person whose guilt the LORD does not take into account,

People: And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

Pastor: When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away

People: Through my groaning all day long.

Pastor: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

People: My vitality failed as with the dry heat of summer. [Selah]

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You,

People: And I did not hide my guilt;

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my wrongdoings to the LORD";

People: And You forgave the guilt of my sin. [Selah]

ALL: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND FOREVER WILL BE. AMEN!

EPISTLE READING *Romans 4:1-8 [NASB]*

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about (before people); but not before God. For what does the Scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6)

Now to the one who works, the wages are not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,
And whose sins have been covered.

“Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD will not take into account.”
(Psalm 32:1-2a)

Pastor: These Readings are from God’s holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING *John 16:5-11*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Praise be to You, LORD Jesus.

⁵ [Jesus says] “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your heart. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: ⁹ regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; ¹¹ and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our LORD Jesus.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *“Right and Wrong”*

MESSAGE HYMN *LSB 580 – “The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”*

**The Gospel shows the Father’s grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.**

**It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.**

**It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.**

**It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.**

**It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.**

**May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

MESSAGE *"Spirit, Convict us of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment"*

Introduction

"Upon this article – justification by faith alone – depends all things which we teach and practice." [Luther, *Schmalkald Articles*]

Sin

The source of all sin is trusting ourselves (self-justification) instead of trusting Jesus and receiving His righteousness.

Righteousness

Jesus' righteousness is ours through faith in His death and resurrection.

Judgment

The Devil can harm us none; he's judged, the deed is done.

Sanctification is the daily hard work of going back to the reality of our justification.

+ Our Response to God's Word +

OFFERING *"Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me" [sing 3 times]*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, Mold me, Fill me, Use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PRAYER & 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen!**

+ The Lord’s Supper – the Visible Word +

PREFACE

Pastor: When I eat the Sacrament, it also eats me; outwardly I eat the Sacrament; but inwardly and spiritually I receive all the treasures of Christ and even Christ Himself, just as when I eat my temporal bread it strengthens me inwardly as to my physical existence. So, when I receive the Sacrament, then Christ receives me and consumes me also, and devours me and my sins, and I enjoy His righteousness. Thus, His godliness and righteousness swallow up my sins and misery, so that afterwards I am nothing but righteousness. [Luther, 1531]

LAMB OF GOD *LSB 567, vv. 1-3 – “Not What These Hands Have Done”*

**Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.**

**Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear the awful load.**

**Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.**

DISTRIBUTION *LSB 556*

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Dear Father, in loving-kindness You sent Your Son into our world in the flesh; therefore, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon, peace, and perfect righteousness in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake us but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to constantly serve You by serving and loving others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG *LSB 547 – “The Lamb”*

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!**

Refrain

***Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!***

**The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing.**

Refrain

**The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.**

Refrain

**He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.**

Refrain

**He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev’ry heart to Him belong.**

Refrain

