

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

+TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY+ 04 SEPTEMBER 2022+



*He even makes the deaf hear
and the mute speak.*

Mark 7:37

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

It was a common practice in Bach's time for composers to borrow themes from each other and give them a new treatment. Corelli (1653–1713) was very well-known as a violinist and composer for strings, but left no music for organ or keyboard. Bach took Corelli's theme and expanded it into a large fugue, with rich counterpoint.

Jacob Weber has become a prolific composer of organ and choral music. Here he gives us a brief but brilliant toccata on this strong hymn. (LSB 795) The text is by Herman Stumpf (1923-2007) a Lutheran Pastor and prolific hymn writer. The tune is by Carolyn Jennings professor emerita at St. Olaf College. At the 2019 ALCM Convention, a hymn festival was held where this hymn was featured. Strangely enough, I found myself seated next to Dr. Jennings, and we had a great conversation.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

867 Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
 2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
 3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
 4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
 5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
 pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
 gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
 God's own Word, To place in Him their
 cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
 won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
 yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
 con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
 doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886-1978

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text (sts. 1-3, 5) and tune: Public domain

Text (st. 4) and tune: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

LSB 167

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 70:2b, 4a, 5b; antiphon: vv. 1–2a

Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!*

O LORD, make haste to | help me!

Let them be put to shame and con- | fusion*
who | seek my life!

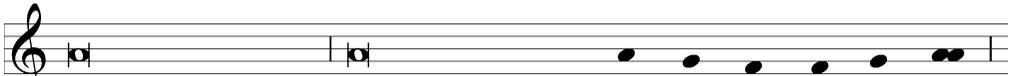
Let them be | turned back*
and brought to dishonor who de- | sire my hurt!

May all who seek | you rejoice*
and be | glad in you!

You are my help and my de- | liverer;*

O LORD, do | not delay!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*



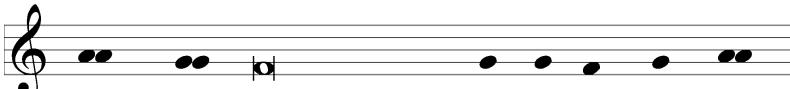
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and

hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 29:17-24

- 17Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?
- 18In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.
- 19The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.
- 20For the ruthless shall come to nothing
and the scoffer cease,
and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,
- 21who by a word make a man out to be an offender,
and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate,
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

22Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

“Jacob shall no more be ashamed,
no more shall his face grow pale.

23For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst,
they will sanctify my name;
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

24And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding,
and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:1-2

**I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;*
let the humble hear | and be glad.**

Epistle

Romans 10:9-17

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

³¹[Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, **“Ephphatha,”** that is, **“Be opened.”** ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit



Hymn of the Day

908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401
Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For this congregation, that our ears would be opened by the Spirit to the Gospel of peace and salvation, and that our lips would show forth our thanks and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all pastors, that God would give them boldness to speak the truth in love and compassion, so that they would not break the bruised reed, but rather lovingly care for all sinners in need of God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all in authority by whose service God provides for us the gift of order, including parents and family, our government, our police and firemen, our military, and our schools, that God would give them strength and endurance to carry out their duties for the good of those entrusted to their care, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For the sick, the frail and the dying especially *Alice, Beth, Carmen, Cynthia, The Benson Family, Debra, Deneice and her family, Gary, Gloria, Helen, Jod, Johnathan, The Jeong Family, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Royce, Sabrina, Timothy, and William* that God would restore them to health. We pray also for doctors, nurses, therapists and all who tend our brothers and sisters in need, that God would bless them as they put the talents He has given them to good use, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all who will partake this day of Christ's most precious body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, that they may discern His body and come to His table in humility and faith to receive the forgiveness of sins and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the faith to confess and believe in Christ, that having been redeemed by Christ, we may gaze on God's glory in heaven, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** O Lord, our loving Father, we entrust all these petitions to Your care for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the house.*

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

G And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My **✠** body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My **✠** blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

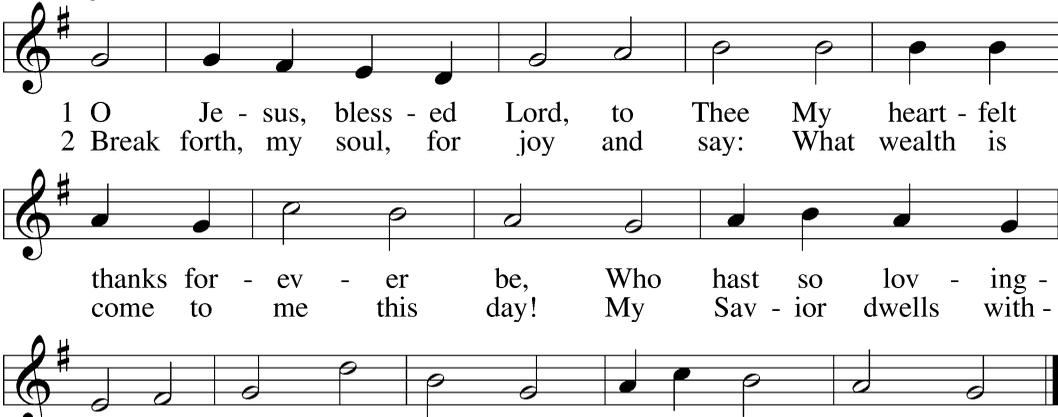
1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
 2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
 3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
 4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this
 brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
 that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
 sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
 Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,
 in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
 tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
 Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
 as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

- 5 We dare not ask how this can be,
But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins:
"Given and shed for all your sins."
- 6 They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find—
May we this warning keep in mind!
- 7 But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
With all who here His grace obtain.
- 8 Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest.
Amen! They who believe are blest.

Text (sts. 1–4, 6–8): Haquin Spegel, 1645–1714; (sts. 1–4, 6–8): tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.; (st. 5): composite
Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re - calls His prom - is -

es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.



Hymn to Depart

794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;
 2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,
 3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,
 △ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;
 The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,
 The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.
 To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day
 Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood
 His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,
 The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.
 And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.
 Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.
 God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Voices Raised To You We Offer

Jacob B. Weber (b. 1988)

Acknowledgments

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 31

+ Altar Guild Set Up: September 4th Susie September 11th Marie
Cleanup for September: Maurine and Nannette

+ Today is Mite Sunday! The Collection box is located in the Narthex.

+ Would you be interested in serving on a Board in this Congregation? We have positions available to both lead and support our leaders. Even if you have never served on a Board before, this may be the time that God is calling you to serve. Please prayerfully consider this and talk to Pastor Killian if you have any questions or concerns.

+ Installation of Pastor Bart Loos at First Lutheran Church in Manhattan Beach on Saturday, September 17th at 3pm. RSVP by emailing flcoffice@first-lutheran.com by September 12th if you are interested.

September Birthdays!

Azula Carmack 17th
Johnathan Raoelison 18th
Jod Soraci 26th

Our Brother in Christ, Dalton Benson, went to be with the Lord Monday, August 29th.

We remember his wife, Lynn, and the rest of his family in our prayers in their time of loss.

An Excerpt from Martin Luther's Sermons

"Now you here observe the nature of faith which grows out of the Word. For the Word first sets forth to us the mercy and goodness of God; then faith causes us to cleave unto it with a firm confidence, and to obey the Word. For we are now conscious of this in our hearts, and are satisfied; for as soon as we believe, we are already with Christ in this inheritance, and are justified." *This sermon is from the Church Postil of Martin Luther for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Sunday.*

A Prayer for the Week

Almighty and everlasting God, who created all things, we thank You that You have given us sound bodies, and have graciously preserved our tongues and other members from the power of the adversary: We beseech You, grant us Your grace, that we may rightly use our ears and tongues; help us to hear Your Word diligently and devoutly, and with our tongues so to praise and glorify Your grace, that no one is offended by our words, but that all may be edified by them; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

A Snippet From 1517

Justification: You Have It All, But You Always Need More

To be justified means to be declared righteous in the forgiveness that is ours in the crucified Christ. It is a done deal, and by faith we have it all.

Do you know the paradox about the beloved who has the complete love of her lover? She has it all, but she always needs more. She is always in need of his love, and not just reminders. So as he continually tells her, I love you, he gives her more. These words are no mere reminders. What she hears is what she gets... more of what she already has. It is the same with the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Gospel reveals and proclaims an already existing complete justification of the sinner for the sake of Christ's atonement on the cross. To be justified means to be declared righteous in the forgiveness that is ours in the crucified Christ. It is a done deal, and by faith we have it all. Nevertheless, while we live with this forgiveness and righteousness of Christ as total and complete realities, we are always in need of more.

For many Christians, justification is understood as a one-time pronouncement by God that happened when you *got saved* and began your life in Christ. The forgiveness of Christ being a done deal, the dominant focus of the Christian's life is now to be centered on how your gratitude and the power of the Spirit are to be channeled into achieving a greater life of obedience. Jesus did his part, it's now your turn.

The astonishing reality that Christ pardons wretched sinners fades into the background of daily Christian concern as attention turns to absorbing Law-oriented principles for daily living and gaining a greater victory over sinful habits. Justification and forgiveness become a distant memory of something God once did, because you once needed them, way back when you first got saved. For many, this understanding and program have produced spiritual burnout and doubts when the weight of alarming sins are felt. Some have even wondered if they are still forgiven and imagined that perhaps they might need to *get saved* again.

Believers need to be taught otherwise about God's justification of sinners and how His continual bestowal of forgiveness feeds and builds up our life in Christ. We need more than distant memories of a God who was, at one time, gracious to us. And, reminders are

not good enough. Christians remain sinners who continually sin. Because they continually sin much, they continually need to be forgiven much. Christians are saved sinners who need to receive again for the first time the Word of grace that bestows God's forgiveness. Yes, you have it all, but you always need more! Note how Luther expressed this in his *Large Catechism*.

Toward forgiveness is directed everything that is to be preached concerning the sacraments and, in short, the entire Gospel and all the duties of Christianity. Forgiveness is needed constantly, for although God's grace has been won by Christ, and holiness has been wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian Church, yet because we are encumbered with our flesh we are never without sin. —Tappert, "Large Catechism", Creed, 54

The Gospel does more than teach unbelievers new information about salvation and remind believers of old information about salvation. It declares righteousness to all sinners as a past reality; it reveals that same righteousness of Christ as a present reality and bestows it unconditionally again and again without any *if* or *when* clauses. Interjecting the word, *if*, makes everything conditional; and the word, *when*, implies it does not exist already. God's forgiveness for the sake of Christ is anchored completely in the external Word of promise, not in anything that we may experience in our life in Christ. What you hear is what you get, and you get it in your hearing.

Moreover, we are justified by grace through faith alone, *apart from any required experience*. Our experience in this life will continue to be punctuated by sinful wretchedness from within and without. For this reason, while we are completely justified in our Baptism, we continually are in need of receiving God's justification so that our faith and life in Christ may not die, but grow and mature. Indeed, it is the saving Word of justification that continually sanctifies the Christian as a lifelong renewing work.

As the continual love of the lover sustains and builds up the trust and love of the beloved, so also God's Word of pardon does more than just remind us that we **were** forgiven in Christ back when. It creates, sustains, and matures faith and life in Christ and it empowers all of our works of love that serve Christ through our neighbors. In other words, God's justification sanctifies the believer.* Exhorting good works does not produce or increase them. They are empowered and increased only by the continual impact of God's Word of forgiveness as we live and grow in Christ.

Justification and sanctification are articles of faith. They are God's secrets held in Heaven, but revealed and bestowed again and again in the Divine Service of our Lord as he nurtures us with His Gospel and Sacraments. All comfort and consolation come to us from our Lord through these mysteries that have been entrusted to His Church. The Gospel of God's unconditional bestowed righteousness is His *I love you* to wretched sinners like you and me. We have it all, but we are always in need of more! Got it? *Dr. Steven A. Hein, 2015*