

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST+ 02 JULY 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ 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:

Today we have music from two American composers who worked in New England about a century apart.

George Whitfield Chadwick was a member of a group of composers who became known as the Second New England School. He was director of the New England Conservatory for many years, and composed works many forms, including symphonies, chamber music, and opera. He is only credited with 8 organ works. “Response” is a quiet work in a late romantic style. He calls for stops that were common on Nineteenth Century American organs, such as the Dulciana and Melodia, but are rare today. Nevertheless, it is possible to get reasonably close to the sound Chadwick had in mind.

William Selby was born in England, but emigrated to America, living first in Rhode Island, then Boston. Besides being a church musician, he ran a liquor store for a time. “A Fugue or Voluntary” is in the typical style of the late 18th Century English composers.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



1 Pre - serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
 2 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
 3 Pre - serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
 4 Pre - serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,
 5 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest Your storm - tossed lit - tle flock;



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
 Con - vince, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
 Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
 The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.
 As - sailed by wind and weath - er, May it en - dure each shock.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
 Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
 Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
 Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,
 Stand at the helm, our pi - lot, And set the course a - right;



Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
 Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
 When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
 Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.
 Then we will reach the har - bor In Your e - ter - nal light.

Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616–64; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain

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

LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
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 89:15–18; antiphon: v. 1

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*
who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,

who exult in your name | all the day*
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

**For you are the glory | of their strength;*
by your favor our horn is ex- | alted.**

For our shield belongs | to the LORD,*
our king to the Holy One of | Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

Kyrie

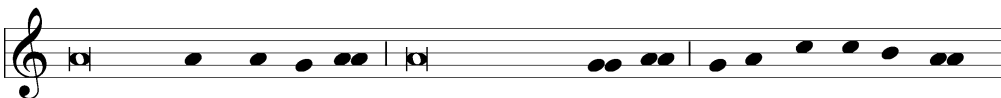
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



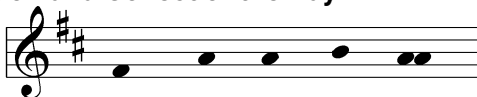
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day



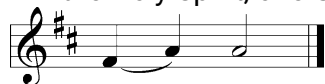
P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Romans 11:33, 36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*
To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle

Romans 7:1–13

Released from the Law

¹Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ²Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

The Law and Sin

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.


¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

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

Matthew 10:34–42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Rewards

⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

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

661 The Son of God Goes Forth to War



1 The Son of God goes forth to war A king - ly crown to gain.
2 The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye Could pierce be - yond the grave,
3 A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few, On whom the Spir - it came,
4 A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, The ma - tron and the maid,



His blood - red ban - ner streams a - far; Who fol - lows in His train?
Who saw his mas - ter in the sky And called on Him to save.
Twelve val - iant saints—their hope they knew And mocked the cross and flame.
A - round the Sav - ior's throne re-joyce, In robes of light ar - rayed.



Who best can drink His cup of woe, Tri - um-phant o - ver pain,
Like Him, with par - don on His tongue In midst of mor - tal pain,
They met the ty - rant's bran-dished steel, The li - on's gor - y mane;
They climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n Through per - il, toil, and pain.



Who pa - tient bears his cross be - low— He fol - lows in His train.
He prayed for those who did the wrong— Who fol - lows in his train?
They bowed their necks their death to feel— Who fol - lows in their train?
O God, to us may grace be giv'n To fol - low in their train!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Tune: Henry S. Cutler, 1824–1902

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Hear our prayer".

- P** O most merciful God, Lord of heaven and earth, rule and govern Your Church and all her pastors and ministers that she may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word and defended against all adversaries, that thereby faith may be strengthened and love increased in us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** O Lord, Your Son was rejected on earth, even by His friends and relatives. Give consolation to all Christians who feel the sword of division brought about by the confession of Christ's truth, especially those who cannot find agreement within their own families on the Word of God, from which life itself comes. Assure them that their stand for Your truth is necessary, and guard them from seeking a false or easier peace. Turn us in every earthly disappointment toward the promise of Your eternal and undivided Church Triumphant. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Father in heaven, bring earthly peace, not a sword, to our homes by Your grace. Foster a common love and knowledge of Your Word among husbands and wives, parents and children, and guide their love for one another by Your love for them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Almighty God, watch over all who make, judge and administer the laws of our nation, and preserve us from sinful contempt of good order and godly laws. Give to our authorities integrity and honor, and bless all inhabitants with charity and love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Gracious Father, according to Your promise You returned exiles from captivity to Jerusalem. Remember those who are displaced from their homes by violence, war or persecution. Provide them with shelter and bodily needs, and foster in them the hope of an eternal home in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord of heaven and earth, strengthen Your people to hold fast to Your Word in times of trouble *Alice, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Naomi, Sabrina, Steven, Suzanne, and Timothy*. Preserve them from false messages of peace that do not remove sin. Sustain their faith in Christ, in His peace and in His life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Heavenly Father, we have died to the law through the body of Christ and now belong to Him who was raised from the dead. Prepare all who commune this day with penitent hearts and a true confession of faith to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us in Christ, that we may bear much fruit. Receive our inadequate thanks for Your kindness, especially toward all who have died in the faith and now rest from their labors. Preserve us in the way of the Holy Spirit until we stand with them in glory; for You live and reign with the same Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

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

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.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

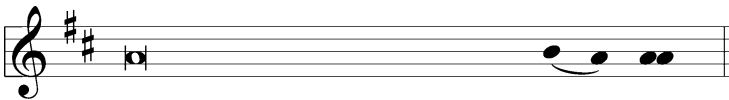
Lord's Prayer

C **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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401

Tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C 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.

NOW MAY THE LORD OF PEACE
 HIMSELF GIVE YOU PEACE AT ALL
 TIMES AND IN EVERY WAY. THE
 LORD BE WITH ALL OF YOU.
 - 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

Hymn to Depart

660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt.

Tune: George J. Webb, 1803–87

Text and tune: Public domain

A Fugue or Voluntary

William Selby (1738-1798)

Acknowledgments

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

- + **Last Sunday's Attendance: 25**
- + **Altar Guild Set Up:** July 2nd Susie
July 9th Marie
- + **Cleanup for July:** Jill and Moira
- + **Ushers for July:** Dick Huhn and Clinton Galloway
- + **Happy Independence Day!**
- + **We have been invited by Christ Lutheran to their annual Music Festival! Come on out on Saturday, July 15th from 11am-3pm for sweet entertainment, good food, and great fellowship! There is a sheet on the coffee table in the Narthex with more information.**
- + **Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.**

July Birthdays

Robert Knox 8th

Brent Tilley 18th

Ed Griffin 28th

The Fourth Petition of The Lord's Prayer **Give us this day our daily bread.**

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

A Snippet From 1517

Epistle: Romans 7:1-13 (Pentecost 5: Series A)

Paul asserts the baptized have died in Christ but this death then makes them free to live unto Christ. Complicated? Yes, a little. Let us try to clarify things a bit.

The preacher enters troubled waters in today's pericope. Interpreters on one side argue [Romans 7](#) reflects on Paul's pre-conversion experience with the Law. Interpreters on the other side say it is post-conversion. It may not be that simple. In fact, it is not so straightforward. [Romans 7](#) possesses an inherent complexity because its main point about the Law asserts that the Law stands as part of the problem, not part of the solution. The Apostle stages his doctrine saying, "The Law is binding on a person only as long as he lives" (7:1). Then, he proceeds with an illustration from marriage (7:2-3). When death occurs, an individual undergoes release from obligation to the Law in the same way that the covenant of marriage no longer binds the living spouse when the spouse dies. But the illustration, while helpful, has its limits. Paul, mindful of those limitations, proceeds in versus 4-6 to apply this doctrine to the baptized; that is, to those who have experienced the resurrection of their spirits. His point asserts the baptized have died in Christ but this death then makes them free to live unto Christ. Complicated? Yes, a little. Let us try to clarify things a bit.

The Law of Moses has clung to Paul's entire argument in Romans. It grips chapter 7 too. The Apostle believes the Law comes from God and bears witness to the Gospel (3:21). Notwithstanding these verities, the Law plays a negative role in God's overall purposes; "Now the Law came in to increase the trespass" (5:20), with the upshot that, *in Christ Jesus*, the baptized are "not under the Law but under grace" (6:14-15). Why? Why are the baptized not under the Law but under grace? Chapter 7 holds the answer to this and associated questions. Yet, there is more!

These verses explain:

- (1) What the Law does, that is, to what end it was given.
- (2) How it actually achieved exactly what God intended in the giving of the Law.
- (3) Moreover, the Law finds fulfillment through the work of Christ Jesus (and, in chapter 8, the Holy Spirit).
- (4) Further still, the Law could never and did never give the life it promised (except in one case: Jesus).
- (5) Finally, the Law only brought about death. Neither Christians nor Jews can claim the Law brings life. It does not. It did not. Instead, it exposed sin and, in doing so, the wages of sin.

Paul's complicated back-and-forth reflection on the Law and his status vis-à-vis the Law contributes to his overall explanatory strategy to the Roman Christians (many of whom were formerly law-immersed Jews). He is telling them about the fundamental transition

made through the Gospel: From the covenant people defined by the Law of Moses, to covenant people defined by the righteousness of Christ and fruit of the Holy Spirit. Therein, Paul's readers find the strengthening of faith, true Christian hope, and a share in resurrection life *in the here and now*.

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Preachers should keep the aforementioned impact of the Gospel in mind and as the focus of their sermon. Too easy a distraction for the preacher will be a myopic view of Paul's life, the temptation to read this text merely as Paul's autobiography. Entire schools of thought have swerved off the road one way only to have others overcorrect into the other ditch with their interpretive bias. Indeed, reading the text as autobiographical may be altogether wrongheaded.

There is good reason to believe Paul may be employing a compositional device, common in his day, to write in the first person singular ("I" and "me") to make a general assertion. He has done it before in [Galatians 2:15-21](#). A growing body of literature sees Paul's use of "I" as referring to Israel, with himself included therein. The point of the passage becomes *more* poignant: When Israel received the Law of God like Adam (for Israel is Adam at the national level), then Israel proved itself to be of Adam and in Adam by breaking the Law! Sin was with Israel all along. The Law "is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good" ([Romans 7:12](#)). The problem does not reside in the Law and, therefore by extension, the lawgiver, God. Even though the Law promised life, the problem from the time of Adam and continuing through Israel rests with mankind's sin. Consequently, the Law could only deliver death (7:8-11): "The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me" (7:10-11).

Where do the Law and Commandments from the time of Adam through the history of Israel bring things? Here is the surprise! When the commandment makes sin sinful "beyond measure," then a person is at the end of their rope and must look to God to save, look to God for grace, look to God for mercy... agreeable to the covenant with Abraham who was justified by faith in God's covenant promise to accomplish all. It leads to the Gospel of God's *fulfillment of the Law* and *redemption from the Law* that delivered us all from death through Christ Jesus. Believe it. Justification is by faith alone and not the works of the Law (7:13).

John Bombaro, July 2, 2023