

The Feast of Whitsunday
St. John 14:23-31
June 9th, 2019
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC
Augusta, GA
Pastor Jerald Dulas+

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Almighty Son of God: We beseech Thee, send Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, through Thy word, that He may rule and govern us according to Thy will, comfort us in every temptation and misfortune, and defend us by Thy truth against every error, so that we may continue steadfast in the faith, increase in love and all good works, and firmly trusting in Thy grace, which through death Thou hast purchased for us, obtain eternal salvation, Thou Who reignest, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ten days after the Lord's Ascension to the right hand of the heavenly Father, the day that the world and false preachers would claim that our Lord + Jesus has left us by ourselves to do as we please, our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, destroys that silly notion with a promise. His departure means that instead of our Lord's physical, earthly presence, He and the heavenly Father has sent to us the Holy Ghost. He is our Comforter; our Helper. He is the One Who leads us into the way of the Truth. He opens our hearts and ears to hear the Gospel promises; all that our Lord + Jesus has done for us, and continues to do for us through the preaching of the Word and the Administration of the Blessed Sacraments.

The world and false preachers would have us believe that our Lord has abandoned us. Our Lord + Jesus in the Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John tells us that we should not let our hearts be troubled. There is no reason to be sad. There is no reason to be afraid. There is no reason to worry or doubt. For, the Holy Ghost is here with us until the Lord + Jesus returns again on the Last Day. The Holy Ghost comforts us by opening our hearts and ears to hear the Word of God. Especially does He open our ears to hear the comforting words of the Gospel.

Through the Means of Grace, our loving Comforter and Helper promises us that our Lord + Jesus has paid for all of our sins. He teaches us that our sins have been atoned for; the payment of death required for our transgressions was paid for by the death of our One and Only Savior, our Lord + Jesus, the Christ, on the tree of the holy cross. His perfect fulfillment of the Law and His innocent suffering and death has paid the ransom for the sins of the whole world. The Holy Ghost opens our ears to hear this blessed Gospel and grants us faith to cling to this Gospel message. With this faith that clings to this promise we are justified, that is, we are made right with God, and receive the forgiveness won for us by our Lord and Savior, + Jesus Christ.

This is the work of the Holy Ghost. He is here in this world to create new Christians by opening

their ears to hear the promises found in the Word of God, and sustain all those who have already heard with faith to withstand the attacks of the devil, the world and our own flesh which do not want us to hear this great promise of our Lord, but would rather have us despair, sorrow and doubt.

This is why today on the Feast of Whitsunday—also called Pentecost—our Lord + Jesus tells us to not let our hearts be troubled. Everything that would cause us pain, sorrow, despair, doubt, or even pride and hubris is removed from us through the work of the Holy Ghost. This is why He continually puts the Word of God before us, so that we might hear again and again the promises of our Lord. For, we are forgetful creatures. We are also, at times, deaf and blind creatures who instead of listening to the voice of the Comforter listens to the voice of the world, or even more likely the voice of our flesh which looks at all of our sins and transgressions and constantly puts them before our eyes, so that we cannot get any relief, but only see the bad things that we have done, and continue to do, no matter how hard we try to avoid such things.

This is why it is also important for us to continue to meet where the Lord has promised us that we would receive the benefits of the work of the Holy Ghost. Here in this place, this holy sanctuary, the Holy Ghost works through the means of grace. Through the Liturgy from start to finish we are met with the reality of our Holy Baptism. In the Liturgy, whenever the Triune God is named it serves as a reminder to us that we are baptized. For, the Triune Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost has been placed upon in our Holy Baptism. This reality of ours should always serve as a reminder that the promises of our Lord + Jesus that we have forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation are ours through this precious gift.

We can cling in faith to this precious gift of Holy Baptism, and remember daily and often that in the waters of Holy Baptism the Old Adam, filled with sin and shame, has been drowned and killed, and we are now new creations in the presence of the Lord Triune God. Our sins have been washed away in the waters of Holy Baptism. Therefore, do not let your hearts be troubled, for your sins have been cleansed away from you; they are no longer credited to you, but our Lord + Jesus has taken them upon Himself and destroyed them in the burnt sacrifice of His Body on the altar of the holy cross.

Our Lord + Jesus distributes this Body with His Blood to us in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar; the meal we eat to remember the sacrifice that our Lord + Jesus made for us. The Holy Ghost, the Comforter, opens our hearts to cling to this bread and wine and believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine we are receiving what has been promised to us, our Lord's Body and Blood. This Body and Blood of our Lord + Jesus gifts us with the same precious gifts that we received in Holy Baptism—forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation.

Therefore, do not let your hearts be troubled when you receive this blessed meal. For, when you come before this altar, kneel before your Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ, and receive His Body and Blood given and shed for you, you receive forgiveness, life and salvation. You receive comfort for your soul. All doubts and worries are removed for you learn to receive everything from the giving hand of our gracious Lord and King. You learn, through the faith created in you by the Helper—the Holy Ghost—that your sins are no longer credited to you, but have been fully paid for on the tree of the holy cross.

Our gracious, loving Triune God is even more abundant in His gifts, for He also offers us the opportunity to confess our sins, privately in the presence of His called and ordained servant of the Word, so that we can hear personally that all of the sins which we confess to the called minister have been forgiven. The called servant of the Word reminds us in Private Confession that the Holy Ghost has created faith in you to cling to the once and for all time sacrifice of our Lord + Jesus on the tree of the holy cross. The called and ordained minister of God, at the command of the Lord + Jesus, reminds you to cling in faith to the atonement of the Lord + Jesus; to cling to the cross of our Lord where your sins have been paid for in full. The called minister of the Word reminds you to not let your heart be

troubled, for your sins are forgiven on account of the works and merits of the Christ.

The minister of the Word also reminds you of this great promise from the pulpit every time he preaches the Word of God in its truth and purity. This is why we gather together every chance we get to hear the preaching of the Word, and to partake of the sacraments, for the promises of our Lord's sacrifice for us is placed into our hearts and ears, as the Holy Ghost, our Comforter takes away our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. Here in this place the Holy Ghost causes us to hear in our own tongue the wonderful works of the Lord God. Therefore, my dear friends, do not let your hearts be troubled, for the Lord of All Creation, the Redeemer of the world, and Justifier of all those who believe, has made you holy in the sight of God through the work of the Sanctifier, the Holy Ghost.

This promise of salvation is something we get to carry with us throughout our lives whenever we avail ourselves of the means that the Lord God has given to us to keep us in the one, true faith. We get to carry this promise of sins forgiven all the way until our Lord + Jesus calls us into eternal life with Him and all the saints. This is why this Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John is often read and preached upon at funerals. For, it is a reminder for those who mourn that the eternal promises that we hear and participate in throughout our lives has been given to the one who has been called to his eternal home. The deceased enjoys his eternal reward and is singing the eternal Liturgy of the Lamb in His Kingdom for all eternity with all of the saints who have gone before us and with all the angels, archangels, and all the company of Heaven. Therefore, there is no reason to let your hearts be troubled, for you will join with them one day, when the Lord + Jesus calls you into your eternal home.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, the Holy Ghost has called you by the Gospel into the Church. In this Church He daily and richly provides you with all that you need to support you through life filled with doubt, fear and shame. Through the dark and sad times in your life the Comforter is calling you to hear that the rewards that the Lord + Jesus won on the cross are yours. You have these gifts when you hear the Word of God in its truth and purity and when you partake of the blessed Sacraments administered according to Christ's command. Therefore, do not let your hearts be troubled. The Triune Lord God loves you and keeps you in His loving care by sending to you the Holy Ghost, the Comforter and Helper in all things. He has created faith in you so that you may cling to the promises of our Lord + Jesus and so that you listen only to His voice—the voice of Truth—and not to the lies and deceptions of the world and false preachers. May the Lord God grant you grace to remain in the one, true faith until He calls you to your eternal home. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Send, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that He may rule and direct us according to Thy will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth, that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!