

The Feast of Whitsunday
St. John 14:23-31
May 31st, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

We Will Make Our Home with Him

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.

Our Lord + Jesus Christ on the day of His Ascension to the right hand of the heavenly Father told His Apostles that He would never leave them or forsake them. He would be with them to the end of the age. This is the promise that our Lord + Jesus has made to us. He is always with us. He has also promised that that wherever two or three are gathered in His Name He is there with them. That means that as long as there is a preacher and a listener, the Lord + Jesus is present with those who gather to hear His Word preached in its truth and purity and receive the Sacraments according to the Lord's institution. He is here with us today. He is present with us today. He is here to comfort us and console us; to forgive us of our sins, which we have confessed before Him to the pastor.

We know that He is here for us, because He has also sent to us His Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost, the Comforter, Helper, Advocate, and Paraclete is here to open our ears and our hearts to the truth. He is the One Who works through the means of grace—Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Holy Absolution, the Preaching of the Gospel, and the Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Brethren, that we learn about in the Smalcald Articles of the Book of Concord. He works through these means to open our eyes and ears of faith to see and hear the truth of the Gospel of our Lord + Jesus Christ.

The truth of the Gospel is that our Lord + Jesus never wants us to feel alone. He never wants us to be discouraged. He never wants us drowning in the guilt of our own sins. He does not want our hearts to be troubled. He wants us to have peace; the everlasting peace that He came down from Heaven to win for us by His death on the tree of the holy cross. He wants to dwell with us for all eternity.

This is why He tells His Apostles that He, and the Father and the Holy Ghost will come and make their home with all those who believe on Him and His works and merits on their behalf. The Triune Lord God desires to make His home with us. He desires to dwell with us for all eternity in Heaven. The Lord + Jesus sits on the right hand of the heavenly Father right now to intercede for us, and prepare for us a home in Heaven. The Holy Ghost is here on Earth also interceding for us against the powers of darkness in this world. He is here in the means of grace, opening our eyes and ears of faith to turn away from our sins, and our self-righteous works, to the saving works and merits of the Christ.

The Holy Ghost is leading us into Heaven. He is leading us into our eternal home. He is doing this through the Word and the Sacraments. Through these means, we are being led to our eternal home in Heaven. This is why we should never forsake the use of these means. For they are our very life blood. They are the means which lead us into Heaven. They are means by which the works and the merits of the Christ are made known to us.

We forget just how forgetful of creatures we truly are. Daily are we confronted with our sin and shame. Daily are we tempted into pride and self-righteousness. Daily do we lose heart and become discouraged. Why? Because that is what our enemies want us to do. They want us to wallow in our sins and our pride. But our loving Triune Lord God wants no such thing for us. He wants us to always remember that He is here with us; that He has never left us. He does that through His Holy Ghost, our Comforter, Who turns our hearts away from the lies of the devil, the world, and our flesh to the cross and suffering our Lord + Jesus, the Christ.

When we are racked with guilt and shame—when we are racked with pride—it is because we have forgotten Who our Savior is. We are very forgetful creatures. When we go looking inside ourselves for salvation, we find nothing there. Or worse, we do find something there. We find the false idols to which we cling to prop us up; all of the good works to which we want to point to make ourselves seem like we are not that bad of a person. The Holy Ghost is here to rescue us from these things. He is here to show us that our good works amount to nothing against the Law of God, which demands perfect obedience. He is here to show us that all of our sinfulness is nothing against the works and merits of the Christ Who offered up His life as a ransom and atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

The Holy Ghost is here to remind us that our Lord's promise on the day of His Ascension still holds true. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will not leave us in our despair over our sins and inadequacies. He will not leave us in our pride and self-righteousness. He will lead us into the way of truth; the truth that proclaims that our salvation is found in the One and Only Savior of the world, our Lord + Jesus Christ.

By pointing us to the Christ, we find peace; we find comfort; we find rest. In the Christ and His works and merits, we find that there is no need to be troubled. For our Lord + Jesus has already accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation. He desires to dwell with us; to make His home with us. This is how we know that the Triune Lord God truly loves us—that the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost all desire to dwell with us for all eternity in Heaven. He has brought us into this place to hear His holy Word and receive His blessed Sacraments. We are in this place to receive comfort and peace. We are in this place—brought here by Him—to find comfort and peace for our souls.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Neither let your hearts be afraid, for our Lord + Jesus sits on the right hand of the heavenly Father interceding for us; pleading on our behalf that He has paid the price of all our sins, and the sins of the whole world. His hands and feet and side are marked with the signs of our redemption. In faith we cling to the crucifixion of our Lord + Jesus, because the Holy Ghost has enlightened our dark souls to hear the word about our Lord + Jesus, and by this faith we are justified, that is, made right with the heavenly Father. The Triune Lord God works in tandem to bring us into salvation. The Triune Lord God works tirelessly to make for us an eternal dwelling with Him in Heaven with all of the saints and angels.

This is the promise that our Lord + Jesus made to His Apostles on the day of His Ascension. This promise is for us as well. It is for our ears to hear as well. The Lord + Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. As long as His Word continues to be preached in its truth and purity, and as long as His Blessed Sacraments continued to be administered according to His institution, the Holy Ghost is creating and sustaining faith in us through these means. As long as we have the Word and the

Sacraments in our midst, the Lord + Jesus continues to be here with us. He has promised that this is true even if those gathered around His Word and Sacraments is reduced down to the bare minimum. Even when there is only a preacher and a hearer, the Lord + Jesus is here with us. Even when only two or three are gathered in His Name, He is here among us to call us into our eternal home.

He is here with us today. He is reminding us that our home is in Heaven. He is reminding us that our citizenship is in Heaven. He is reminding us through the work of the Holy Ghost, that there is no need to be troubled, for He desires to come to us, and make His home among us. He desires to dwell with us for all eternity. He never wants to leave us nor forsake us. He wants to take away from us the pain and misery caused by our sins, and He wants to give us His perfect and holy righteousness in exchange for our paltry self-described righteousness. He wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

Therefore, He sends to us His Holy Ghost, His Comforter, to lead us into the way of truth. The Holy Ghost is here today, to point us to the Christ. He has been poured out upon us, so that we might sing the praise of our Savior; that we might tell of all the good things that He has done for us. Let us therefore rejoice in this great gift of the Holy Ghost, Who leads us out of sin and darkness, into the marvelous eternal light of our home in Heaven through the works and merits of the Christ. 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, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

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

Soli Deo Gloria!