

Cantate
St. John 16:5-16
May 10th, 2020
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald Dulas

He Will Glorify Me

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

Lord God, heavenly Father, Who didst through Thy Son promise us Thy Holy Spirit, that He should convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment: We beseech Thee, enlighten our hearts, that we may confess our sins, through faith in Christ obtain everlasting righteousness, and in all our trials and temptations retain this consolation, that Christ is Lord over the devil and death, and all things, and that He will graciously deliver us out of all our afflictions, and make us forever partakers of eternal salvation, through the same, Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God, 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 sends to us His Holy Ghost. As I mentioned last Sunday, in the second half of the Easter season our Lord + Jesus tells His Apostles what is to transpire in the coming days and weeks. We, as the holy, catholic and apostolic Church on Earth, are prepared to receive the Holy Ghost. We are prepared for our Lord's ascension to the right hand of the heavenly Father. As we sang in the Greater Alleluia, "The right hand of the Lord is exalted. The right hand of the Lord does valiantly" from Psalm 118. How is the right hand of the Lord exalted, and what valiant thing does He do? We sang about that, too. We sang the words of the Blessed Apostle St. Paul to the Church at Rome, when we sang, "Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."

This is the truth that the Holy Ghost implants into our ears. This is to what He causes our faith to cling. He convicts us of what our Lord + Jesus has done. Our Lord + Jesus has suffered and died at the hands of sinful men. But He has risen from the dead, so that He "dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him." The Holy Ghost through the preached Word and Blessed Sacraments reveals this truth to us. The Holy Ghost takes what is from the Son and declares it to us. He glorifies the Son by revealing to the world what the Son has done for all mankind. He glorifies the Son—our Lord + Jesus Christ—by gifting us with faith to cling to the Son for forgiveness, life and salvation.

In this life, we are trapped in the devil's kingdom. It is the devil's kingdom not because he has any special authority to rule over it, but because he obtained it through deceit and lies. He deceived Eve, and Adam went along with his wife's deception, to the end that we have inherited their original sin. We bear the sin, in our flesh, of our first parents. Therefore, like all those who have come before us, we are trapped in the devil's kingdom. In this kingdom, he uses the world and our sinful flesh to constantly attack us. He causes us to fall into either pride or despair.

We fall into pride when we believe that our sins are not that great; that we are not really that bad

of a person. We fall into despair when we are led to believe that our sins are too great for God's forgiveness. The Holy Ghost convicts us of our sins—both of our pride and our despair. The Holy Ghost leads us out of ourselves to the Christ. He points us to the One Who suffered and died for our sins on the tree of the holy cross. He points us to the *only* One Who perfectly fulfilled the Law of God. No matter how good of a person we appear to be; no matter how good of a Christian we are, we have not fulfilled the Law perfectly, and therefore are deserving of God's eternal wrath and displeasure without the Christ.

But also, no matter how bad of a person we are, we need not despair, either. For the Holy Ghost shows us that our sins are buried in the cross of our Lord + Jesus. He has paid our debt fully. He has claimed us as His own through faith. He washed us in the waters of Holy Baptism and made us His brothers, and sons of the heavenly Father. We have been made into a family; a family of those who cling to faith in the works and merits of our Lord + Jesus Christ. As a family, we join together at this altar and He feeds us with bread and wine, which is His very Body and Blood. He feeds our souls with forgiveness, life and salvation with His very Body and Blood. The same Body that He offered on the tree of the holy cross, and the same Blood that He shed as an atonement for our sins and the sins of all the world.

This is what the Holy Ghost, the Helper, the Comforter, teaches us. It is with this knowledge and faith that He implants in us that He glorifies the Son of the Father, the One Who is the right hand of the Lord, and sits on the right hand of the heavenly Father. This is what our Lord + Jesus tells His Apostles in the Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John. The Holy Ghost is sent by the Son—proceeds from the Father and the Son—to convict the world. In what way does the Holy Ghost convict the world? He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

The Holy Ghost convicts the world of sin, because of their unbelief. If we do not confess our sins—or believe we have sins in the first place—the truth is not in us. There are many people in this world who do not believe that they have sin, or are sinners. Even worse, there are many people who view their sins lightly, as just a malady or disease that they can easily manipulate out of themselves if they “obey the rules” or follow the steps. Sin corrupts our very nature. It is not something we can “good work” our way out of. The only salvation we can find for our sinfulness is in the death of our Lord + Jesus; in His works and merits of perfectly fulfilling the Law and suffering our punishment on the tree of the holy cross.

Sadly, many people in this world do not want to believe this. They reject the message outright. They want no part in the saving grace of the Lord + Jesus. They want no part with Him. Others want to claim the Lord + Jesus as a Savior, but still want to remain in their sins. They want to go on sinning. They make the claim that “we are all sinners.” A true statement, but not all sinners are the same. Forgiven sinners are the ones who do not like that fact that they are sinners. They do not want to be sinners. They live in penitence. They are sorry for their sins, and wish to do better. They hate the fact that sin inheres in them, and long for the day when sin will be fully removed from them when the Lord God calls them to their eternal home.

Impenitent sinners only want to use forgiveness as a cloak for licentiousness. They use the forgiveness of the Lord God as a reason to go on living in their sinful behavior. They falsely say, “God loves everyone. God is a forgiving God. God forgives me even though I keep on doing this sinful thing.” Yes, the Lord God loves everyone, but He is heartbroken by us when we choose to go on living in sin. Yes, the Lord God is a forgiving God, but He does not forgive the sins of which we do not repent. He cannot take away what we cling onto so desperately. He does not force our sins out of our hands. We must give them up freely. The Holy Ghost is the One Who assists us in that. He is the One Who leads us into repentance and He is the One Who leads us into faith to cling to the Lord + Jesus has His works on our behalf. The Holy Ghost convicts us of our unbelief in the Lord + Jesus and shows us that our

salvation is found only in the Christ and His works for us.

The Holy Ghost also convicts the world of righteousness. This sounds strange to our ears. Is not righteousness a good thing? How can we be convicted of righteousness? The Lord + Jesus gives the answer Himself: because He goes to the Father and we see Him no more. We are righteous, that is, justified, made right with the Lord God, on account of faith in Him. We believe in Someone we have never seen with our own physical eyes. We only see the Lord + Jesus Christ with the eyes of faith. This is why we are declared, or convicted of, righteousness. The Holy Ghost convicts us of righteousness because of the faith which He created in us. We are righteous because we believe on the Lord + Jesus and cling to His works. We are convicted of righteousness because we have turned away from our sins, and cling to the righteousness of the Christ.

We bear His righteousness. We have put on the righteousness of the Christ in our Holy Baptism. We are clothed with Christ. We are clothed with His righteousness. And He continues to establish righteousness in us—continues to create and sustain faith in us by the work of the Holy Ghost—through the preached Word and our participation in this Sacrament we enjoy at this holy altar.

We receive the conviction of righteousness on account of our faith; gifted us by the Holy Ghost. But those who refuse to believe, or doubts them, are convicted of judgment. They bear the same fate of the ruler of this world. He is already judged. His fate is sealed. The lake of eternal fire and torment has been prepared for the devil and his angels. Hell awaits our accuser and his demons. Those who do not believe will share in the fate of the devil and his angels.

This is why we give thanks and sing about the great gift of the Holy Ghost, our Helper and Comforter. For He has led us into all truth. He has revealed to us that our salvation is found in the Christ—in our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. By His perfect fulfilling of the Law and by His suffering and death on our behalf, we have forgiveness, life and salvation in Him. He has done valiantly. He has been exalted on the tree of the holy cross, and was therefore exalted out of death to life again, and is now exalted to the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for us until He comes again to judge both the quick and the dead on the Last Day.

On that Day we, with the Apostles and all those who have gone before us in the faith, will follow Him where He leads us: into our heavenly eternal home. In this life we have sorrow; sorrow over our sins, sorrow at the hands of unbelievers and those who seek to destroy the Church. But on that Last Day, we will no longer have any sorrow. Indeed, we get a foretaste of that joy, whenever the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, comforts us with the Gospel, and removes all sorrow from us, so that we can join our voices with the whole catholic Church on Earth and sing the praises of Him Who suffered and died for us. The Holy Ghost has put a new song in our mouths. We sing this new song today. This same song we will sing forever in Heaven. May the Lord God Almighty grant this unto us all. 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!