

Matins for the Friday after Quasimodogeniti
St. John 4:28-38
April 16th, 2021
ELDoNA Synod and Colloquium
Salem Ev. Lutheran Church
Malone, TX
Pastor Jerald Dulas

One Sows and Another Reaps

In Nomine Iesu!

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

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ²⁹ “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ³⁰ Then they went out of the city and came to Him. ³¹ In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” ³² But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” ³³ Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ³⁶ And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.” (St. John 4:28-38 NKJV)

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

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

My dear brothers in Christ, we have been taught that when we write a sermon that we should look at the context of the pericope upon which we are preaching. In order to expound the Scriptures and preach the Gospel of our Lord + Jesus Christ, we need to “look at the bigger picture.” Certainly, the context of the passage includes that which comes before and follows after the particular text. Today’s Gospel pericope follows the Gospel reading from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John where our Lord + Jesus meets a Samaritan woman and asks her for some water. Our Lord + Jesus tells her that He has a water of life of which a man drinks, he will never go thirsty, and we heard a fine sermon on that reading yesterday. Having provided everlasting water that eternally quenches one’s thirst, our Lord + Jesus today offers food that quenches our hunger. This is the scriptural context where we meet our Lord.

But our examination of the context of a sermon text does not just include where it fits in the holy Scripture. Context also includes where our reading occurs within the Church’s year; the liturgical context. This past Sunday on Quasimodogeniti our Lord + Jesus established the Office of the Holy Ministry. He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Ghost.” The Holy Ghost forgiveness the sins of all those who penitently confess their sins to the pastor, who then absolves them of their sins. The newborn babes who crave the pure spiritual milk of the Word of God, hear that they are poor, miserable sinners in need of the Lord God’s grace and cling to the promises proclaimed from the pulpits

of this diocese; the promise that forgiveness of sins is found in the Lord + Jesus alone. By this preaching the newborn babes find water that quenches everlastingly and finds pure milk—food—that satisfies our hunger. Through the preaching of the Word of God—through the sowing of the seed of the Word of God—our hunger and thirst for righteousness is sated.

The Holy Ghost makes newborn babes crave the pure spiritual milk of the Word of God through the pure preaching of the Word of God, and these newborn babes are cared for by faithful and compassionate shepherds. These shepherds imitate the Good Shepherd of Whom we will hear about on this coming Sunday, *Misericordias Domini*. This reading from the fourth chapter of the Apostle and Evangelist St. John falls in the midst of these two Gospels from St. John chapter twenty and chapter ten. We have in these two Sunday Gospel pericopes our task as ministers to care for the newborn babes and sheep of the Lord God, forgiving them their sins, and guarding and protecting them from that thief of faith—the wolf of the devil.

Our Lord + Jesus provides us today with further enlightenment about our Office. The Office of the Ministry is all about reaping what others have sowed. The Lord + Jesus has sowed the promise of salvation into His works and merits. He has planted salvation into this world by perfectly fulfilling the Law of God and then taking that holy, innocent flesh and blood and offering it up as a holy and perfect sacrifice on the tree of the holy cross. He has sowed salvation for all of mankind by taking upon Himself that chastisement of all our sins and the sins of the whole world. He suffers and dies for us, and all the world, and wins for all those who believe on Him forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. He has planted salvation for us by His death.

Our Lord + Jesus on *Quasimodogeniti* sent out the Apostles to be the first to reap the harvest of all those who cling to the Lord + Jesus in faith; who cling to His promise of salvation. One sows, and another reaps. This ministry has been passed on down to us, so that we may give salvation to all those who cling to the works and merits of the Christ. All the newborn babes who crave pure spiritual milk and all the sheep of the Lord bear the fruit of faith through our pure administering the means of grace. These newborn babes and sheep come to the Church hungry and thirsty for righteousness, beat down by Satan, the world and their own flesh. We give them the water of Holy Baptism, and we provide them the food of the Body and Blood of our Lord + Jesus in bread and wine. By these means they receive the Holy Ghost, have their faith strengthened, and are refreshed with everlasting food and drink.

Lift up your heads, my dear brothers in Christ, and see that the field is white for harvest. This world groans with sin and death. The people cry out for help and mercy. They are desperate for a Savior. That Savior is the Christ. The only Savior is the Christ, who paid the penalty of all of their transgressions on the tree of the holy cross. The benefits of our Lord + Jesus are distributed by us whenever two or three gathers together in the Name of the Lord + Jesus and receive the Holy Ghost through the means of grace. This is our task in this world. This is our Office. See how white the field is for harvest. Our Lord has sowed salvation, let us reap the fruit of faith by giving our Lord + Jesus to all those who come into the holy sanctuaries of our diocese. For He promises that they will find food and drink from which they will never again hunger and thirst for righteousness, for He gives them His own righteousness as a gift through the means of grace.

Consider again the context of this passage from the Apostle and Evangelist St. John from the fourth chapter. When our Lord + Jesus said to His Apostles to lift up their eyes and see the fields, not only did they have a physical picture of the fields before them ripe for harvest, but St. John tells us that after the Samaritan woman met our Lord + Jesus at the well, she put down her water jug, which she did not need anymore, because she had the water of life which never runs out, but she also went to her village and told everyone to come and see the Lord + Jesus. When our Lord + Jesus tells His Apostles to look up and see that the harvest was ripe, here were the men of the village coming out to them; coming to see and hear the Lord + Jesus. Here were the newborn babes and sheep of the village of

the Samaritan woman, who met our Lord + Jesus at the well, coming to receive from Him the everlasting water of life and the food of which we eat we will never go hungry.

Those in this world who hunger and thirst for righteousness continue to come to hear and see the Lord + Jesus. They come to see the One Who sowed salvation for them by offering up His innocent life as a ransom for them. My dear brothers, we need only give them our Lord + Jesus and His works and merits that atoned for the sins of the whole world. In giving the ones who come to us the means of grace, we give them the Holy Ghost, Who creates and sustains faith and life in all those who believe the preaching that declares that the Christ has paid the ransom for their sins. One sows and another reaps. Our Lord + Jesus has sowed salvation by His death and resurrection; by His works and merits. We reap the harvest in the field to which He sent us by preaching the pure Word of God and administering the Blessed Sacraments according to Christ's institution. May the Lord God grant us grace as we feed the newborn babes pure spiritual milk, and guard and protect our sheep from the wily and deceptive wolf. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

The Votum:

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

Soli Deo Gloria!