

## Sermon for July 11,2021 – The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Luther: “Imagine there was a doctor somewhere who understood the art of saving people from death or, even though they died, could restore them quickly to life so that they would afterward live forever. Oh, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain. No one could find access to him because of the throng of the rich! But here in Baptism there is freely brought to everyone’s door such a treasure and medicine that it utterly destroys death and preserves all people alive” (LC IV 43).

We have a way of comparing things whereby we place one thing (sin and death) on one hand and another thing (baptism and life) on the other hand. John Doe is a sinner on one hand but he is a saint on the other hand. John Doe is dead in sin on the one hand but baptized to new life in Christ on the other hand. All of us who believe in Christ, who are buried with Him through baptism into death on the one hand are raised with him from the dead by the glory of the father even Jesus Christ on the other hand.

And so we have it in our scriptures today, the Ten Commandments on the one hand and the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments through Christ on the other hand. Our Old Testament reading for today is from Exodus 20:1-17, the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai by God to Moses.

The first table of the law, the first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. We should fear, love, and trust in the only true and living God above all things. We should deal with God's Name with high regard and not take it in vain. We should also remember also the Sabbath to keep it holy, not despising preaching and His Word.

The second table of the law, commandments four through ten deal with our relationships with our fellow human beings. Don't disrespect our parents and those God has placed in authority over us. Don't kill or hurt other humans. Don't have sex with any one except your spouses, those whom God has given to you. Don't steal. Don't lie. Don't slander our neighbors. Don't desire our neighbor's wife, servants, or animals for ourselves. And don't desire our neighbor's physical possessions for ourselves.

There you have it, God's law. Simple enough, right? But, if you think that keeping these simple laws is a snap, tell me which one you can keep perfectly, for you see keeping of them is not easy, you don't necessarily have to kill someone to break the commandment on murder, just be angry at them. You don't necessarily have to worship a buddha to break the first commandment, just trust in money or your job or your doctor or yourself more than you trust in God. We are, in truth, idol making machines. We can't and don't keep the first commandment or any of the others.

Along comes Jesus to keep these commandments fully and perfectly. He did what we could never do. And to prove his perfection, the failure of the Pharisees and Sadducees to try and find some sin Jesus committed is solid testimony to his ability to keep the law perfectly. For those were truly people who knew the law well for they not only thought that they kept the Ten Commandments, but they also thought they kept the other 613 additional laws that they had contrived. They knew the law. Jesus repeatedly asked them to show him his sin and they could not.

Jesus kept the commandments perfectly. Jesus was baptized to take on the sins of the world. Jesus was crucified as punishment for the sins of the world. The wages of sin is death. Jesus died, though He had no sin of His own, he died to pay for our sin. Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, that those who believe in Him might be saved.

Romans 6:3,4,5,6 - <sup>3</sup> *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?* <sup>4</sup> *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.* 5,6 - *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,* <sup>6</sup> *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

**From the Lutheran Study Bible:** “Christ identifies Himself with us; His death pays for our sins, and His righteousness is credited to us. We suffer *a death like His*. His death was on the cross; ours is in Baptism, which gives the benefits of His work on the cross. We look

forward to *a resurrection like His*. New life has already begun for the child of God; at Christ's return, our bodies will be raised to life again."

Hebrews 9:27,28 - **27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, **28** so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Dear Ones, you can't do what is required of you by God's law. You can't keep and you don't keep God's commandments. Should you try? Yes. But when you fail as you surely do - should you be contrite and be sorry for your sins when you fail to keep the Ten Commandments? Yes. Be contrite and confess your sins to God over and over and over and ask for His forgiveness in Christ over and over and over. 1 John 1:8,9 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In his perfect mercy God has sent His Son to keep the commandments perfectly **for you**. In His Son's righteousness – in His keeping of the commandments is found your righteousness – your keeping of the commandments. By faith in Christ's death on the cross is found your first death in baptism. Your impending death at the end of your life on earth is not really death but only a short nap until he comes again. In His resurrection from the dead is found your resurrection from the dead. When your nap time is over, then Christ will wake you from your nap, raise you to new life, and take you with Him into eternity.

He said it: "*Believe and be baptized and you shall be saved.*" And so it is for you who believe, you believe in Christ and what He has done for you, you have been baptized, and you shall be – no you **are** – SAVED. You will be raised from the dead and live in to eternity. Believe it! This is most certainly true. Amen.