

Cantate

St. John 16:5-15

May 7th, 2023

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC

Simpsonville, SC

St. Michael and All Angels Evangelical Lutheran Mission, UAC

Augusta, GA

Pastor Jerald Dulas

I Will Send Him unto You

In Nomine Iesu!

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

Sermon Text:

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send Him unto you. And He, when He is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and ye behold Me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world hath been judged.”

Prayer in Pulpit before 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.

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

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! And because He is risen indeed, He must go to the Father to sit on His right hand and intercede for us poor sinners to the heavenly Father. But He does not leave us alone! When He goes to the Father, He and the Father send to us the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost declares to us all truth. This is the main task of the Holy Ghost: He declares to us the truth. This truth is our comfort, for the truth embodies the things that the Lord + Jesus has done for us. The Holy Ghost comforts us by preaching into our ears the truth that the Lord + Jesus has perfectly fulfilled the Law which we were unable to obey. The Holy Ghost comforts us with the truth that the Lord + Jesus has paid the penalty of our sins on the tree of the holy cross, so that we may take comfort in the fact that just as He died and was risen from the dead, we too may have eternal life with Him.

The Holy Ghost teaches us this truth through the means of grace. Wherever the Holy Ghost is using the means of grace—wherever two or three are gathered together in the Lord’s Name—He is comforting us with the truth that our Lord + Jesus has not left us alone, but continues to abide with us. He abides with us through His Word and Sacraments. He is there with us in the waters of Holy Baptism where He washed us with His Blood that He shed on the tree of the cross. We are washed clean and free from sins by the waters of Holy Baptism; we are washed clean and free from sin by the Blood of the Lamb of God. We remember this granting of forgiveness whenever we remember our Holy Baptism. Indeed, we begin each Divine Service with a remembrance that we are baptized, when the minister turns to us and blesses us with the Name that was placed upon us at our Holy Baptism. We have been

given the Name of the Triune Lord God. He has claimed us as His own. He has declared to us that we are free from the bondage of sin and death.

We remember our Holy Baptisms also whenever we make the sign of the holy cross and repent of our sins. When we daily make the sign of the holy cross and remind ourselves of Whose we are, and that we bear His Name, and we are His children. In this knowledge we therefore daily confess our sins, admit our faults, acknowledge our transgressions, and also with a heartfelt yearning wish that we were without these sins. In so doing we drown the Old Adam; we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners, and wish to amend our sinful lives by the assistance of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost comforts us with the truth. He comforts us by preaching into our ears that the Old Adam indeed has been drowned and killed, and we have been raised up to live as a new creation before the Lord God.

He comforts us by reminding us that we have been freed from sin, therefore, we do not need to return to our old sinful selves and ways. He convicts us of our sins. Showing us our unbelief, pointing out our many sins and transgressions. By this He convicts us of righteousness. He shows us how unrighteous we truly are. He shows us that we need another's righteousness. We are credited with the righteousness of the One Who has ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. We cling in faith to His righteousness, for all those who are unbelievers—who wish to go on committing sins and trespasses; who have no desire to amend their sinful lives—will be judged. They will be judged in the same manner as the prince of this world—Satan. Those who wish to remain in their sins, who scorn the works of the Christ, who remain in their unbelief, will be judged unworthy of the joys of Heaven; they will be condemned to Hell, just like the devil and his angels.

This is why the Holy Ghost continues to preach into our ears the truth. It is why He continuously seeks our comfort. He continues to come to us with the Word of God and preach into our ears that the Christ has paid for the sins of the whole world, so that all those who cling to Him in faith will have eternal life with Him. We will join Him in Heaven and sing with the heavenly choirs for all eternity. We have a foretaste of that eternal heavenly choir of Heaven on this Sunday of Cantate. We are reminded that the preaching of the Holy Ghost causes us to sing with joy, for we were once dead in our sins and trespasses.

We were once alone, naked, and ashamed on account of our sins. But He has now drawn us into the holy Christian Church, and caused us to be surrounded by the whole company of Heaven. We are surrounded by a whole host of the heavenly band. We are surrounded by angels, and archangels, and by all the saints of Heaven. We are surrounded by this multitude whenever we gather together in the Lord's Name, even if we are just two or three. For He has promised it to be so. In this Christian Church, not only are we surrounded by the heavenly choir, and join our voices to theirs, but the Holy Ghost has clothed us with the Christ's righteousness, so that we are no longer naked. We no longer need to be ashamed either, for we have as our Lord and Savior the one worthy of all honor, glory, and praise: the Lamb of God Who shed His Blood for the redemption of His people.

The Holy Ghost invites us to share with one another this Blood of the Lamb in a blessed meal. He comforts us with the truth that the Body and Blood that our Lord + Jesus offered up as a once and for all time sacrifice on the tree of the holy cross is given to us here at this altar in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Here at this altar, we are joined together with the whole company of Heaven. We may only see two or three, but there are multitudes upon multitudes of saints lending their voices to ours as we sing the praises of, He Who died to win forgiveness, life and salvation for us. We are joined here at this altar by all those who have gone before us in the faith; those who have received the crown of everlasting life that has been promised to all those who believe on the Lord + Jesus.

The Holy Ghost comforts us with this truth, that we are not alone. Our Lord + Jesus has not left us to be by ourselves. He has sent to us the Comforter, the Helper, His Holy Ghost, to teach us all

things. He teaches us that we poor sinners, who are deserving of death, will indeed die, but we will not remain in the grave. For just as our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ died and rose again, we too, will rise again on the Last Day. He will raise up us and all believers, and bring us into His eternal, heavenly abode. There we will sing with the heavenly choir for all eternity the eternal liturgy of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end. When we gather here, as two or three, or more, in His Name, we get a foretaste of the things to come.

Therefore, my dear friends, let us rejoice and sing, the praises of Him Who died to conquer sin and death, for He has sent to us His Holy Ghost to be our Helper and Comforter. He teaches us all truth. He teaches us that we who were once dead in our sins and trespasses have been made into a new creation, one which no longer desires to be bound by his sin and evil desires, but who wishes to be a new creation; to live as one redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. Let us therefore come to this altar and receive the Blood of the Lamb in wine, along with His Body given in bread, and sing with all the company of Heaven, that the Lamb of God is worthy of all glory, laud, and honor. For He has risen from the dead, and we will live with Him in Heaven when He calls us from this vale of tears to our eternal home in Heaven. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the 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!