

The Second Sunday of Advent (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee. Amen.

Mark 1:1–8 *John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

In the Name of Jesus.

The Lord bore the cross for us; and He is not yet off the clock! He bears with us until the End: not desiring that ANY perish, not even the Lutherans! No; He is committed that all should REACH repentance, E...V...E...N.....: you and me.

Jump in da' Ribbah' Johdan' with yer pastor and with John the Baptizer and with **And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem confessing their sins.** Admit! Agree! Say it! It's what the Holy Spirit wants for Christmas!

When Saint Peter says to the Lutherans, “Are you sad because you’ve been reading and watching the ‘news’? Do not think the Lord is slow to fulfill His promises and return; rather, He is being long-suffering and patient and PUTTING UP WITH.....”

I beg you not to let me be so lonely today. SOME of y’all MUST be salivating at the end of that line to find out by holy revelation WHOM God above finds ETERNALLY burdensome! The Judge is putting UP with: _____!

The president we are retiring or the president we are hiring?

The folk without an anchor who find NOTHING good to conserve about the way we have been living and want to DESTROY EVERYTHING; OR, the senseless, those NOT ‘with the times’—my LSU precious darlings call people like me ‘Un-WOKE!’

John appeared to wash and forgive and promise MORE to only ONE kind of folk: ALL! The ALL that are THOSE FEW—those precious few, who still had SOMETHING that Heaven could not abide. What a day that was, when John appeared, dressed so strange, declaring the coming of the Kingdom of God. When has such a wonder occurred again? Who went out to John? Who confessed their sins?

Not just Judea; not just Jerusalem. But Saint Mark REPEATS one of the Spirit's favorites: ALLuv 'em!

ALL? He does not leave out a one: not THIS Lord.

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."¹

This is the reason that after John appeared, then Jesus, then Peter and Paul, that Doctor Martin Luther appeared. Midst this world's Babel-sounds and ENDLESS advice screaming in our ears about how GOD is 'over there' and WE are 'over here' and 'HERE are the steps to overcome the gap;' AND, of course, the 'suggested monetary donation to the cause'

Luther just read the Word. Disciples of Jesus confess their sins and THEY trust the Good News that pardon did not

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mk 16:14–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

AT ALL grind to some HALT at the cross of Jesus. No; it GROWS and GOES and is good for ALL!

And where our BELIEVING goes wobbly, before and after and in the ABSENCE of ANYTHING WE do with this Good News of God and Man all together: there's our Baptism to speak to us morning, noon and night. 'The Lord is being patient; patient with you. Truly; TRULY; He has NO DESIRE in Him that you should get now or on Judgement Day what you deserve.'

Not after John. Not after the mightier one. Not after the Fire that IS His Spirit reaches you and teaches you, me, all: 'YOUR problem starts at home, not with any other man. Let YOUR worry be about YOU and Heaven, YOU and the Lord, YOU and YOUR sins.'

I have found, my dear ones, that when I hear such things from John, Spirit, Peter, Paul, Luther: I can even bear to tune in to the news and find out that creation is FILLED with folk who are just, just, just...ugh! Just like me. We can boast; we can pretend we're getting away with...whatever! But not one of us is straight.

Your Lord has carried all our crookedness to the cross and suffered for it and has left it all behind. With THAT

confidence, we may start to straighten out little bends in our lives.

The Lord is nothing but pure flames and fires of pardon and love. What keeps us from admitting our wrongs to Him, to each other, to those we wrong? Nothing—on HIS side; patience, patience, says our God. Comfort and comfort to the End.

We have been baptized at His authority. Even WE, my dear Lutherans, are FREE! Free and washed and safe and CALLED....to take baby steps in trusting that E...V...E...R...Y.... man, every action, every deed, every episode of what WE call ‘history,’---It’s in the hands that make water holy, and the cross, and our graves, and our confessions, and our lives, all of us.

John’s message is for all; Jesus’ too; even Luther’s! My dear ones: it’s what HEAVEN desires for E...V...E...R...Y...O...N...E on your nice list---AND for every annoying girl, or boy, on your ‘naughty’ list.

People keep vexing you for one reason: So the Holy Spirit can teach US how patient heaven is WITH YOU, and with me in the Name of Jesus.