

The Second Sunday in Lent

Year of the Lord 2019
Luke 13

**“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!”**

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus],
“Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”
³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out
demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day
I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today
and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a
prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴**O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who
are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children
together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you
would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you
will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!’”**

In the Name of Jesus:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is HE! Blessed is HE! Blessed is HE that cometh in the
Name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Words—HE says, my dear ones! Not ME....

Words that present the Name of the Living God, the Presence of
the Redeemer, Abraham’s Friend, the Fear of Isaac and Jacob’s
Lord....to US! We...SEE...HIM! Here! Now! For us!

Take, eat; this is My Body, given for you. Take, eat, this is My
Blood, shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins.

And because you and I are cursed to be some of the few Lutherans the world is ever going to see—might as well be hung for a sheep as for a lamb!—Let us REVEL with Doctor Martin Luther in the certainty, the immovable, unchanging and unchanged PLEDGE of God that HIS Spirit lives and breathes and Gives Life...IN...HIS...EXTERNAL...WORD!

NOT a magical formula, friends of Jesus, Friend of sinners! Oh, we can MAKE the words of the liturgy our rote chattering that dreams in delusion that we thus sway The Might One!

But the child, the sinner, the weak, the old, the tired, the frightened...find in those external WORDS the enveloping wings of Mary's Boy, our Brother in the Flesh and our God!

What does Jesus know—by the way—about birds gathering their brood under their wings?

How many times had He worked that through with countless birds and mothers and broods; from the Fifth Day of Creation; to the birds nesting with Noah and his brood in the ark; to each pigeon throttled as a sacrifice for sins at the temple where lived the Holy One of Israel; until today.

The God Who has mother birds doing this daily and much—poor GOD! Yes, I said that! POOR GOD! HE loves us...in...such...a...way...that He lets us damn ourselves. 'YOUR house then! So be it! Good luck with that!'

Brother Joe has delighted in the external gifts given with certainty in the Lutheran Church: Baptismal birth from above; a washing left to the Holy Spirit's evaluation; even the confidence he can place in taking as the absolute pardon of heaven DELIVERED TO him, from the lips of the man who is as far from heaven as a man can be!

And then, this horrible man had to ruin the ride for poor Joe! Telling him that the ACT of our attendance—at ANY of the Lord's

means of salvation—OUR...ACT...OF being baptized,
communing, confessing our sins, praying...

What is OURS about those acts CAN...ONLY...HARM...US!

But what is GIVEN in those gifts, are the tender, motherly wings
of God.

Forget about BIRD'S wings! Wings! Birds.
NOT...CERTAIN...ENOUGH!

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them. ¹

Ohhhh! All that talk about birds and wings and chicks...that was all just pretty pictures! But there's nothing pretty about THIS:

¹² And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.”

¹⁸ But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”— ¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:36–43). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will. ²

Dearly beloved, there’s an prideful Old Adam in me that cannot help but be impressed with myself! If Jesus’ most obstinate opponents had it in THEM—and HE lamented, ‘O Jerusalem! Jerusalem!; lamented with tears over their hardness—then, surely, someone like ME has it in me to as self-satisfied and hard! You too? Didn’t know we had it in us, did we, my dear ones?!

‘And y’all would.....NOT!’

So, out the window with Jean Calvin’s irresistible grace! RIGHT THERE—RIGHT WHEN—RIGHT WHERE God is MOST OPEN TO ABUSE—‘As a mother bird gathers her brood under her wings...’—WE can show God, can’t we?! WE will do as we please! Toddle into a run into the backing up cars in the lot; or into the road—on a day the sign says ‘We’re ALL Irish today!’ So, bottom’s up!

WE will show mother-bird, won’t we?! We will show God. Either WE will abuse the Law of God, just because the Lord delays our punishment. OR, we will get a smidgen of religion inside us; and then dream that WE have taken heaven’s place OVER the judgment of all other men! Lord, have mercy!

Do...not...despair! Jesus is your Friend, all you who qualify. What’s the qualification? Glad y’all asked!

The Word of the Lord, Saint Luke, chapter 16:

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:12–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

¹⁶“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. ¹⁷But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. ³

I have an old, ex-friend who used to say to me, ‘It’s EASY for YOU to believe in God, Paul!’ He was just witnessing how everything falls into my lap like a surprise daily and much.

I would tweak that, just a bit. It’s easy for yours truly to be a Lutheran! For, if I forget, it doesn’t take much to teach me again that I will never satisfy Moses and his demands, the holy insistence of the God I cannot know. Matters as weighty as heaven and earth; but as simple as a tiny mark on a page of my Hebrew Bible.

And, yet, from the day I was baptized at 17 days old, to the days of my dear Sunday School teachers and the best catechizing pastor I could pray for...the only hope grounded immovable for someone like ME is the EXTERNAL WORD OF THE GOSPEL! My Baptism into Christ; His Body and His Blood, EVEN...FOR...ME!

You need MORE to convince you that the Gospel is FOR YOU?

Despite all that’s in ME, I have not yet been able to slip outside the tender wings of the Holy Christian Church; and you dear people, whose only boast when WE are gathered together is this: Jesus sinners will receive!

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 16:13–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Shame on us; and all of us. 'WE will not!'

Hosanna in the Highest! Our thoughts are not His thoughts. Our ways are not His ways.

And our will, is NOT the will of God the Father, NOR the will of the Spirit of our Lord.

HIS will is this: 'I would gather you as a bird gathers her brood under her wings.'

As long as WE do not intrude into that beautiful picture in any way, we're ALL SAFE in the Name of Jesus.