

The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
 Year of the Lord 2019  
 Luke 20

**“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!”**

**Isaiah 43:16–21** Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

**Philippians 3:8–14** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 20:9–20** And he began to tell the people this

parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!”

But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? “Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

In the Name of Jesus:

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing;...”

The ‘former things’ the LORD commanded old Israel to ‘forget’ are the Moses events! Passover, Red Sea crossing, and the GIVING...OF...THE...LAW!

The NEW THING is the Christ event! Which He caps off with these words, ‘The cup that is poured out for you is the new testament in my Blood!’

TOO new, for the scribes and chief priests! For they had forgotten, if they ever knew:

That they were only ever TENANTS! The Holy One of Israel raised UP old Israel—Isaiah sings!—to sing HIS PRAISES! NOT...THEIR...OWN!

What will we not do, my dear ones, to be god for ourselves—to protect and keep what WE dream WE own, WE have built, WE control...ugh!

What strange bedfellows the Blood of Jesus makes! Romans; pagans; men with whom those fine fellows would never associate—become their ‘go-to’ resource to rid the world of such a King, such a Son, such an heir of the Kingdom of God; as the man Who attaches Himself to those who know two things: ‘I SHOULD orbit God and my fellow man; but I INSIST that God and my fellow man orbit ME! I LIKES to be bad!’ (Jesus is the Friend of sinners. Jesus is the Friend of Lutherans!)

Take a moment to be astounded! Leaders of Rome lived for money and pleasure, casting aside any hindrance to live for self: marriage, children, any man. The leaders of the Jews held to a code that honored one God alone, and treasured His gifts of children and family and their fellow man. I know this sounds crazy! But imagine a day in which the Muslims of our day—devotees of God and children and family and such—made common cause with men who twisted marriage to their lusts, counted children’s

lives as nothing, and used and abused anyone who got in their way! Imagine SUCH a political alliance! God preserve us!

Achhh.... The media and their politicians are NOT our worry, my dear ones! As there is only One God—Christ Jesus, our Lord!—there is therefore then ONLY one cause of terror, repentance, for those who know what they SHOULD BE but REFUSE TO BE!

What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: *‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? ‘Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.’*”

Lord, have mercy upon us!  
 Christ, have mercy upon us!  
 Lord, have mercy upon us!

My dear ones: the damned is the damned is the damned! And they ain't getting' any 'dead-er!' THESE words are not breathed out upon us, upon the Church, so that WE might sit in judgment of ANYONE! The Spirit of the Crucified and Risen Christ breathes out these words, to make NEW--from OLD things, like Saul of Tarsus; who was baptized and became Paul, and so utterly NEW!

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in

him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Happier words, more refreshing words, I am stumped to find!

ALL that you and I can point to, to claim that WE orbit God and our fellow man in ANY WAY worth Heaven’s notice, reward, favor...Paul teaches us—NOT TO STOP DOING! But, instead, to treat it as it is. As Jesus’ opponents were terrified of Him, insulted by Him; this is OUR danger!

You should see the terror on the faces of my little darlings at LSU when I try this in a little way with them. They make these little vocabulary cards to learn my languages; but they often end up carrying this two-pound stack of cards; even those with ‘and, but, man, house....’

So I will ask for a stack from a student, and show them what should be done when they are CERTAIN of the Hebrew or the Greek or the Latin for ‘and!’ And I take that card and throw it in the garbage! And, more often than not, I need to dig it out again and hand back so that the poor child does not pass out!

When we learn ANY good deed---anything a child of God does in faith, according to the Ten Commandments, for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor!---then, Saint Paul calls out to us from Heaven: Well done! You've learned what neither politics nor man's religion could ever teach! God is YOURS in Christ Jesus! And, so, the WORST that men can do to you, is to act like you! And YOU have been given the Blood of the NEW Testament, to live, to forgive, to treat EVERY MAN as GOD in Christ treats YOU!

Just one good deed left! Throw that deed of yours—as much as it is YOUR good deed!—throw it in the garbage!

Just stay baptized, made not just a TENANT, but AN HEIR WITH JESUS of the beating Heart of God! Who is ONLY HAPPY NOW, when YOU call on Him, with all boldness and confidence, as a dear child does his dear father.

SO BOLD, that YOU can live as if YOU are schooling GOD! The Vineyard, the Kingdom, God in Three Persons, is GIVEN...FOR...CERTAIN...TO...THOSE...WHOSE...PRAYER IS THIS:

‘As WE have ALREADY pardoned those who keep offending US daily and much, You NOW know, dear Father, just how to pardon us in the Name of Jesus!’  
Amen!