

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15)
 Year of the Lord 2019
 Luke 12

**“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!”**

**⁴⁹ “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were
 already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how
 great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I
 have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather
 division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five
 divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be
 divided, father against son and son against father, mother against
 daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her
 daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”**

¹

In the Name of Jesus:

YOU...WILL...NOT...take fright at these words! For they are the
 words of your Friend!

Friend of sinners; sinners, shown, by these thoughts:

Then who is RIGHT?! And who is in the WRONG? I GOTTA
 FIND OUT! The two? Or the three? The elders or the young’ns?
 WOW are we ever idolators!

My dear ones: He...is...with...us!!!! As WE are not even WITH
 US. In that cry of yearning—a baptism that burns; a fire that
 washes, kills and raises to life!—Mary’s Boy, in our flesh, is God
 Himself crying out ALL of OUR helpless boxing of the wind. But
 HE—unlike any man—HE is going to do something about it!
 ‘This is a Baptism I...WILL...SUFFER! This is a Fire that
 I...CAST to the world! (That is, of course, the Promise of the

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 12:49–54). Wheaton, IL:
 Crossway Bibles.

Father: the Holy Spirit!)

But NOOOOoooooooooooo.....

(Look! Bear with me. Your poor pastor must BEG the Holy Spirit all day, every day, to speak through this sack here what HE knows. If any of y'all are way ahead of me on the Gospel here: keep praying for your poor preacher!)

I HEAR this 2 v 3 and 3 v 2—and I go swinging between two poles: ‘Who is 2 and who is three? What side am I ON? And—is that the GOOD side or the LOSING side?!’

OR, I give myself false security: ‘Well, I’m pretty sure I AM on the ‘Jesus team’; so, the General here is confirming we take sides and dig in our heels and hope for our day of vindication! HE will show ‘em!’

With friends like ME, what other ENEMIES does Jesus need?!

Where, my dear ones, does the Holy Spirit live and speak for certain, for us? In His Word. First and last place to go looking for the Father’s pledge! NOT...INSIDE...US!!!!

He pours out plenty in just this Gospel, According to Saint Luke; to burn away with Grace and wash away with Rebuke even what your PASTOR thinks! Just ANYONE can receive Him and His Counsel! Just anyone! Certainly: YOU!

And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon,

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”²

¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with³

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”⁴

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 5:7–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 5:18–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 5:27–32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

5

¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ⁶

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 6:20–37). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 18:15–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

⁴⁹ John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” ⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village. ⁷

I need to stop this now. Not because any little one here wants this Gospel record to end. It’s just because we’re not THERE yet!

I pledge you with everything the Holy Spirit has ever taught me—or anyone! He will appear again, soon. And you—even I!—we will not hear or bathe in or be warmed by ANYTHING, other than this Good News of Peace. Now; we’re still HERE. But HEAR this one last:

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his

⁷ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 9:46–56). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

garments.⁸

Saint Luke recorded, for us, that Jesus, Mary's Boy, Son of David and Christ IS the Prince of Peace, Solomon, come again; and, yet, He is NOT...AT...ALL... Solomon! Nor Roman emperor; or ANY ruler or power that makes this thing call 'PEACE' by outvoting, outscreaming, out hustling, out stabbing and grabbing every other power in the cage match of government.

As King with crown of thorns and throne of cross-beam shame—royal wine cup some sour, vinegar-y slop served on a toilet scrub—

We're free.

Why 2 oppose 3 and 3 scheme against 2---

NOT...OUR...PROBLEM! 'His Body wasn't THERE!'

HIS...PROBLEM! He done it! And 'Who can make straight what God has made crooked?'

Faith says, 'Well, NOT ME! NOT my burden!'

When it comes to ethical decision making, my dear little lambs; when moral choice is on the line; YOU...ARE...FREE! YOU too have been baptized; and how PAINFUL that was?! Nicht wahr?!

You have been fire-blasted clean by the Fire that IS God—His Holy Spirit. How long were we in the burn unit? Ach! After all the preliminary prayers and readings and such, it takes even a slow-learner like pastor only about 8 seconds to baptize a little

⁸ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:32–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

heathen and make him littler still; in Heaven: GREAT!

What choice today? This moment? This crisis? This fork in the road?

Free from every tyranny—of political party, opinion poll, public clamor; free EVEN from that tyrannical dictatorship that CAN be this thing we call ‘family’---

‘Follow Me!’

In fact, just as we hear the first command about no other gods—we can tell the other presumptive gods ‘The position has been filled!’
Hearing the first and most awe-full command
AS...GIFT...OF...AWE!.....

So, when the Lord threatens exclusion from His Kingdom—unless we go the path of EXCLUSION????!!!!!!

His fire! His Baptism! His yearning! And now:

His little flock; His men; His people; His brothers; His Peace:

Wash away the soil; burn away the accumulated extras; and what is left there, under all, in OUR works and lives presented to the LORD? No, no, no, no, no, no,....

OUR works are GOOD works, because HE was baptized, burnt, mocked, crucified. And when they went to look for Him at the tomb, His Body wasn’t there!

Let your King worry about divisions; you worry about—nothing!
Pray and love and repent and rejoice and pray and sing and work and pray and be merciful, for God is your Father for certain!
Nothing more fitting!

He raised up His hands and blessed us, while He was taken into heaven. He will return the same way: Wounds out; wounds FIRST; Your Peace and Your King and Your conscience and Your God; blessing through and through!

Even you and I, my dear ones—for certain!—are going to survive the baptism and fire of the Last Day in the Name of Jesus.