

## The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (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.

**Matthew 21:33–46** ....*Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.* ...

In the Name of Jesus.

On the Kingdom Come, you will rise from the dead:  
M...E...A...N...I...N...G.... You will NEVER compare yourself  
to anyone ever again, for better or for worse. Ach! Rise now!  
You are the baptized! Live ‘Last Day’-like, now, forever!

M...E...A...N...I...N...G...

Hear the Word—all of it: the Law and the Gospel, WHAT you  
deserve AND...WHAT...NO...MAN...DESERVESSSS....and  
do...not...flinch! HEAVEN is here!

Here I go!

Jesus said, ‘The Kingdom of God is going to be taken away from  
YOU!’

Who’s that ‘you’? Well, we’re the only ones here today! ALL of  
God’s Good Kingdom is going to be taken away from you and me,  
dear Christians. ALL the Almighty can do to save idolaters from  
perishing with their idols is to rip our idols from our claws!

“I know! I will send My Son—and then we will see some  
respect!”

We clutch two idols: stuff; and self-regard. Self-satisfaction is the worst. Well....what is GAW-AWD gonna do about all this sinnin' goin on?! Idolatry!

<sup>62</sup> And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?" <sup>1</sup>

That title, my dear ones, 'Son of God,' M...E...A...N...S...

God's Anointed.

The Messiah.

The Christ.

The King SO King, it goes like THIS: Where THAT Man is, THAT King, there is God for certain and nowhere else! So, if you care to find Real God, Living God, no idol of our own fashioning, There's the King and There's the Kingdom, all prepared for you: THAT MAN! First it was DAVID: the King Who pursued God's Law—and then crashed and burned! The christ! The anointed. The messiah. Now what?!

---

<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 26:62–68). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Now, David's Son: He's got something else going, other than keeping the law and breaking the law. It's called fulfilling the law. And it went like this, Law done to the end.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

<sup>28</sup> And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. <sup>2</sup>

You ONLY find God FOR CERTAIN in T...H...I...S... King?  
This Son of God?

Hallelujah! Yes! Yes! It shall be so!

Your poor pastor is going to share these feelings my doctor invented.

Even MY feelings get hurt when people say that I don't proclaim things that are practical and every day and normal living comforting.

What is more 'ALL THAT I just said' than what I just said?!

The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther bids us rise up each day in the glad confidence that since THAT KING's man washed me, I...am...clean—for certain!

I NEED that!

---

<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:27–31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Because once you leave the muddy Jordan with all the other sinners, then the comparisons begin, the questions: ‘Are YOU the Son of God—where YOU are, then God is for certain?!’

You, baptized child, little one—if you are at all like your poor, miserable minister, and have EVERYTHING to learn about God’s Kingdom, EVERY day, ALL over again, FOREVER....

Then, YOU...ARE...ROYALTY! King, queen, prince and princess of heaven! ALL authority of heaven and earth is in YOUR hand! The Father’s EAR is glued to your lips, your heart, your prayer...JUST...AS...YOU...ARE....

AND...I...AM...BEGGING...YOU.....

BE DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS!!!

DO...NOT....CHANGGGGEEEE!!!!!!

STAY...ROYALTY all the way, Jesus’ style!

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.<sup>3</sup>

I have spent some time with a little prince of heaven lately. And His Majesty needs to learn to SHARE! Verdict? Perfect son of God, as His Father in heaven is perfect!

Perfect...NOT as in man’s religion: ‘Well, OLD Israel got it wrong, but we Christian’s will get it right!’ Ugh.

---

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 16:24–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Perfect as in this:

<sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” <sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” <sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. <sup>4</sup>

Yesterday, did you ABUSE God’s bountiful kingdom He has given you?! When you say ‘yes,’ you are JUST the vineyard workers He’s been looking for—since JESUS! Since CALVARY! Since the sign and the mocking and the reviling. IDENTIFY your rottenness; call on God to abide with you nevertheless, for YOU are just what God’s been looking for! Try better next time; I guess. But, for the love of Christ:

DO...NOT....CHANGE..... from being a sinner! It seems to this lonely man that there are so few of us sinners left here.

Do you relish broadcasting the recurring weaknesses of others?! Well, then, REJOICE, Your Majestys! TURN from murderous gossip! As best you can... But whom are we FOOLING?!

Yes, zip your lip now and then and it can make the world a better place. But that ain’t living and it ain’t perfection and it certainly ain’t the Gospel!

Know yourself! Know your sins! And then...

---

<sup>4</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:36–44). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

REJOICE that the OLD way and the OLD vineyard and the OLD kingdom—

Well, the Owner realized that just wasn't gonna work: WAITING for the day, the people, the commitment...of THIS group, outshining THAT group.

'But, wait, pastor! Didn't Jesus bid us on the sermon the Mount to let our light shine and be the light of the world and a city set on a hill cannot be hidden and all that?'

Yes. He said a lot of things in that Sermon.

F'r'instance:

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.... <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. <sup>5</sup>

My dear ones, I do NOT know what else to do with that little piece of counsel from Jesus THAT TO REPLY the 'Amen' that goes like this: 'Love my ENEMIES?! Be perfect?! You FIRST, Jesus!'

Hear the Gospel! Jesus is offended by my impertinence! What's He gonna do about it? He's gonna reply: 'I go first! You, follow Me!'

<sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup> And one of them at

---

<sup>5</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 5:43–48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. <sup>6</sup>

Christ, the Son of God, is singing our favorite song! Was He ever baptized WITH the sinners!

‘Why????!!!!!! Why ME?! Look at all that’s WRONG with the world. And I am at least TRYING! Why ME, of all men?!’

And He drank vinegar from a toilet sponge and He screamed and He died. And—hooray!—Our Father raised Him up. Why not raise Jesus? He’s going to raise you and me. So, Jesus gets to rise too! You are risen here and now!

Try to ‘buck-up’ with people who revile you, dear Christians. Enter again into the danger zone of those who insist on only taking, taking, taking FROM YOU and yet showing no gratitude.

And FACE IT! You HATE IT! ADMIT...T...H...A...T...!

AND.....DO...NOT...CHANGE...!!!!!!

B...E...C...A...U...S...E that’s the WORST! The worstest thing we can do now! Is NOT pardon as WE have been pardoned.

Because THAT is the ONLY vineyard, kingdom, the ONLY God that is LEFT!

And today He gives you His Body to eat; then He gives you His Blood to drink; and He assures you there’s many of you.

---

<sup>6</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:46–50). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Those who seek perfection by trial and error and overwhelming pardon.

Those who produce good fruit, because the only FRUIT Heaven savors is this:

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” <sup>7</sup>

And so we school Our Father in heaven today: Watch us forgive, and YOU will finally learn how to do it!

I can’t do it, my friends. I cannot be a normal pastor; one you can find on every YouTube channel and in every church.

I cannot tell YOU the little bits and scraps and papier-Mache religion YOU can goop together to feel satisfied about yourself as you head to the grave...head down there SUPERIOR—in YOUR OWN ESTIMATION—woke and with-it and less dead than all your fellow grave stuffers. I can’t and I won’t, God help me.

But I can be there at your bedside, graveside, and give you all authority in heaven and earth that has been given to me: I forgive you all your sins!

The only thing I beg of YOU....is that you find a way to keep on sinning in the Name of Jesus.

---

<sup>7</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 9:12–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.