

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost  
Year of the Lord 2019

“O God of Life! Your Almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant...us...the fullness of your Grace: Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.”

**Exodus 3:1–15** Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” 4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” 12 He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

13But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

16Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

**Luke 20:27–40** 27There came to [Jesus] some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, 28and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 29Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. 30And the second 31and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. 32Afterward the woman also died. 33In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.”

34And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, 36for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. **37But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed,**

*in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. 38Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.” 39Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” 40For they no longer dared to ask him any question.*

In the Name of Jesus:

WELLL..... No questions from miserable sinner to power God of the Law! But the God Who is The Gospel—yikes! Does He ever get the questions! Praise the Lord! QUESTION how someone like YOU can be OKEY-DOKEY with HEAVEN! Heaven DELIGHTS in that praying!

Luke 20: ‘they no longer dared to ask him any question.’ Luke 22, however:

<sup>63</sup>Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. <sup>64</sup>They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup>And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

<sup>66</sup>When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, <sup>67</sup>“If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, <sup>68</sup>and if I ask you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup>But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup>So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup>Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”

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The Evangelist recorded MORE questions:

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:63–23:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

**23** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” <sup>3</sup> And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”<sup>2</sup>

But that’s just poor Pompous Pilate. We can excuse him, as we do all our worldly lords and masters, our betters. But what about a man doomed WITH Jesus?

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”<sup>3</sup>

God as Fire CANNOT be approached: ‘Do...not...draw...near!’ At the Ark of the Covenant, the people drew near to God; and then came death; a substitute. And off the people walked; and were spared, for this world.

God has approached us; draws near to all men, the world, for their JOY! Ours!

Let poor pastor of Lutherans wave y’all away TO JOY.

The Gospel lesson today provides one of the very few run-ins Jesus had with the Sadducees. These men were the POWER in Israel: running the temple; as close to a king or ruler as Israel got under the Romans and others.

And there was a whole swath of faith in the Living God they PROUDLY despised! Resurrection from the dead; angels. You had a hard time even pinning them down about Who or What the Almighty is. (When I speak to children of Israel, it’s usually to Sadducees, not Pharisees.)

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<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:1–3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:39). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

But this mockery of theirs CANNOT be written to CONFIRM you and me—the Pharisees, or other Bible-believing Christians!—to CONFIRM us is OUR-----

My dear daughter has tried to scare me away from the word ‘bigotry.’ Please, dear ones: give me another word that people CAN hear and then not shut off their ears!

I need a word to describe THIS heaven-angering attitude: ‘Well, I may not be perfect; and I may not be all that a Christian SHOULD be; but AT...LEAST...I...AM...NOT.....’

What word defines THAT, my lovelies? ‘I can’t be all that bad because at least I am not....’

IF...ANYTHING...the account of the Pharisees and their mocking of Jesus as some kind of ‘Bible-thumper’ is a foundation, to the core call to repentance...for you, and me, my dear friends!

The God of Moses CANNOT be approached. Yet Moses was sent by Him to bring the children of Israel near to Him, on that mountain. ‘Do NOT draw near to Me; but you are too far away!’

Why did the Sadducees mock Jesus? Why did the man on the cross? There is only one answer to all of our unbelief and grim defiance. It is the one word the herald angel blew away with the Spirit’s breath, the night Jesus was laid in the manger: Fear.....NOT!

The Real God has drawn near to all; and....

<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:44–46). Wheaton, IL:

But then, He could only spend 40 short days before He could not contain Himself any longer. And....

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

<sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple blessing God.

God in Christ has drawn near to you: washed as He was washed, AS IF in need of cleansing, but not really. That is your status now, child of God! Rise baptized, AS IF in need of cleansing, though YOU...ARE...NOT! Fear NOT!

God in Christ draws near to us—the altar is inside the building, not out! The day of blood and killing and burning and death is over for good. The day of LIFE has drawn near!

God in Christ draws near to us: look around you; it’s okay to sneak a peak at your fellow communicants, heading to the altar of pardon, there, ambling away.

You and I, my friends, are NOT okey-dokey with God because OF US NOT BEING....WHATEVER!

You and I are okey-dokey with heaven—and God MUST hear our prayers with a smile, with JOY—because God has given up looking for anything in ANY MAN—JESUS TOO!—THAT separates him from any other man.

Draw near to God in the Name of Jesus! Amen!