

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Our Only Hope is in Christ's Righteousness *"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven."* (Matthew 5:20) God demands nothing less than perfection and holiness from you in regard to His Commandments. (See Exodus 20:1-17) Your only hope, then, is not in your own goodness but in the goodness of Christ, Who did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them for you. In Christ, your righteousness does indeed exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. For you have been baptized into Christ's death and your sinful nature crucified. Therefore, he who has died has been freed from sin. (See Romans 6:1-11) You are now raised with Christ to walk in newness of life and to share in His resurrection on the Last Day. Christ has brought you through the baptismal sea *"out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."* (Exodus 20:2) Therefore, *"consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 6:11) (lcms.org/lectionary-summaries)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Christ was not sent by God the Father to deliver the Law; Moses already did this. Neither did He come to dismiss it, or reward us for keeping it. He came to fulfill the Law and be the righteousness by which we unrighteous sinners are saved.

All Scripture ought to be divided into these two principal topics: The Law and the promises. Of these two parts of Scripture the adversaries choose the Law, because in some way human reason naturally understands the Law. By the Law they seek the forgiveness of sins and justification. The Ten Commandments require outward civil works, which reason can in some way produce. But the Commandments also require other things placed far above reason: Truly to fear God, truly to love God, truly to call upon God, truly to be convinced that God hears us, and to expect God's aid in death and in all afflictions. Finally, the Law requires obedience to God, in death and all afflictions, so that we may not run from these Commandments or refuse them when God lays them upon us.

If we merit the forgiveness of sins by the Law, of what benefit is Christ? If we can be justified by reason and the works of reason, what need is there of Christ or regeneration? It is as though Christ had come to deliver certain laws through which we might merit the forgiveness of sins, as though we did not receive this freely because of His merits, as we indeed have! (lcmssermons.com; *Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article 4, Justification*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL (CALL TO WORSHIP)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 287:1-6

PREPATORY SERVICE OF CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION AND SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGE 15 TO 23/FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: The Lord is the Strength of His people; He is the saving Refuge of His anointed. Save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their Shepherd and carry them forever. To, You, O Lord, I call; my Rock, do not be deaf to me. Otherwise, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to You for help, when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctuary. The Lord is my Strength and my Shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. (*Psalms 28:1-2; 7-9*)

CONGREGATION: ♪ Glory be to the Father....

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O Lord God, do not enter into judgment with us, Who have not kept Your Commandments from the heart, but regard the precious, saving merit of Your dear Son and let us always be partakers of His righteousness. Enable us also by Your Holy Spirit to walk in Your fear, true faith and holiness of living, and to beware of pride and self-security, so that we are not cast into everlasting prison, but enter into Your eternal Kingdom; through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – EXODUS 20:1-17

P: ^{20:1} And God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments. ⁷“You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His Name in vain. ⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:7-14

P: The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

C: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

P: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

C: They are to be desired more than gold, even much fine gold; they are also sweeter than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

P: Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

C: Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

P: Restrain Your servant also from presumptuous sins; do not let them have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HYMN (CONT'D): ♪ 287, 7-12

EPISTLE (LETTER) LESSON – ROMANS 6:1-11

P: ^{6:1} What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 5:17-26

C: ♪ Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: ♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ^{5:17} “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

NICENE CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 22]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 295

SERMON

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have commanded us to have no other gods before You. Keep us faithful to You alone, dethrone all idols in our life, and give us Your grace to fear, love and trust in You above all things.

Gracious God, Your Name is holy. Stop us from using it in unholy ways. Let Your Name, which You have put upon us in Holy Baptism, keep us holy, and may we always trust in the Holy Name of Jesus our Savior, and use His Name in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Almighty God, You created six days in which to work and the seventh day You made a day of rest. Grant that we may use the Lord’s Day for rest, hearing Your Holy Word and receiving Your blessed Sacrament.

Governing Father, in Your goodness You have given us fathers and mothers whom You want us to honor, serve and obey, love and cherish. Grant that by the help of Your Holy Spirit all Christian parents may bring their children up to fear and love You, and that children may not provoke their parents to anger but love, respect and obey them. Keep the families of Your Church united, and strengthen them through Your living Word.

Lord of life, You have created the world and You give life to all people. Grant that by Your grace all may respect the sanctity of life, including the life of the unborn. Let us do nothing to hurt or harm our neighbor in any way, but rather to be of help, especially in times of need.

Loving Father, You have established the estate of marriage and You continue to bless it. Give us grace to lead a chaste and pure life. Bless all who are married; enable them to remain faithful to their wedding vows, and to be patient and forgiving.

Blessed Lord, You are the Giver and Preserver of all good things. Help us to value honest work as Your gift and the means by which You bless our community and country. Give us joy as we serve others with unselfish hearts. Grant work to the unemployed and help them to use their extra time constructively and for the good of their fellow man.

Merciful Father, in Jesus Christ You have shown Yourself to be for us and not against us. Help us to be loyal to our neighbors and do nothing to damage their reputation. Show us the log in our own eye when we find a speck in their eye. Make us more ready to forgive than to judge, and to always view the actions of others in the most favorable light.

Gracious God and Father, You are the Owner and Provider of all things. Enable us to be good stewards of all Your gifts, content with what You have given us, and eager to advance the cause of others even if it is to our disadvantage. Give us a generous heart and joy in serving our neighbor, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Good Lord, bestow Your rich mercies upon the sick and the homebound, the hospitalized, the chronically ill and the lonely, including:

Holy Trinity – Eldor, Monroe and Carolyn.

Saint James – Margo, Dolores, Della, Bernice, Lois, Darvin, Lillie Mae, Tom, Ronnie, Egor, Genell, David, Ernest, Charles, Ginger, Walter, Lorine, Ruth, JoAnne, Carole and Amber.

Grant that the hope they have in Your Son may grant them relief from their burdens and deliverance from their ailments. **C: Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR [PAGES 24-31]

PROPER PREFACE (LORD'S SUPPER OPENING PRAYER)

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, fulfilling Your will and gaining a holy people for You. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

COMMUNION HYMNS: 🎵 306 & 330

CLOSING HYMN: 🎵 297

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †