

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love & faithfulness. (v10)

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, & in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went & made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven & is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, & powers made subject to him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What are we to make of v19? Note v19 “went” & v20 “gone” are the same word in Greek. See 4:6; Acts 2:31; Romans 10:7; Ephesians 4:9; Small Catechism: Creed, II, Formula of Concord: IX (both the Epitome & Solid Declaration) See also Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21
SC, FC available <bookofconcord.org>
2. How does vv19-20a connect with Jesus’ earthly ministry? Note- St. Peter is traditionally understood as St. Mark’s primary source. See Mark 1:21-28, 32-39, 3:13-15, 22-30 6:7, 12-13, 5:1-20, 7:24-30, 9:14-27, 16:9, 17. See also Genesis 6:1-4

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What does St. Paul add to the idea of a good/clean conscience in v21? See 2:15-24, 3:8-17; Romans 12:1-2, 13:8; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 13:1-8; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:6-14; Philippians 2:1-11, 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
4. v21 connects Holy Baptism to Jesus’ resurrection (& death v18, cf. Romans 6:3-6). How does the water do this? See SC: Baptism, 3. How does the emphasis on God’s decisive power, not one’s own decision-making or effort, make your baptism permanent & trustworthy for salvation? How is this comforting to you?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Democratic participation is a blessing & a privilege; what do Sts. Peter & Paul remind us about our true adversaries, our true strategy, & our true victory?
See Romans 8:35-39, 12:12-13; 1 Corinthians 8: 5-7, 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:20-23, 6:10-18; Philippians 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10; See also Psalms 20:7-8, 33:16-19; 44:6-7, 60:11, 108:12-13, 118:8-9, 146:3-4, 147:10-11,
6. Let’s tighten the focus of #5. How does the ongoing Covid19 crisis (which began in 2019) reveal these powers, authorities, angels, principalities, et al. & reveal the secondary utility of the best & brightest of humanity’s solutions (social, economic, political, psychological, military, etc.)?

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Promise of Baptism

He conquers sin & washes us clean.

Remembering this promise tells us who & whose we are.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Baptism, which [Noah's flood] prefigured, now saves you—
not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God
for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (v21)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)

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