

Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 16 June 2019

Season: Pentecost: Holy Trinity Sunday

Color: White

Divine Service: I

Introit: Psalms 16: 8 - 11 antiphon: Liturgical Text

Old Testament: Proverbs 8: 1 - 4, 22 - 31

Gradual: Romans 10: 8b, 10

Psalm 8, antiphon: verse 9

Second Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 22 - 36

Verse: Isaiah 6: 3b

Gospel: John 8: 48 - 59




Hymn of the Day (HotD) 498 / Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest


Opening Hymn: 507 / Holy, Holy, Holy
Sermon Hymn: 498 / Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest
Distribution Hymn: 817 / Earth And All Stars
818 / In Thee Is Gladness
950 / Splendor And Honor
894 / For The Fruits Of His Creation
506 / Glory Be To The Father




Closing Hymn: 822 / Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate) Julia




My brothers and sisters, our Triune God **stands** in our midst this morning and **speaks** clearly and unequivocally about

 the struggle of the flesh against the Spirit,
 ritualism opposing true faith,
 human reason denying divine wisdom.



 It is a struggle that is more than an exchange of words but is the enmity of fallen mankind against

 their Creator,
 their Messiah
 and Spirit of Truth.

 The holy Trinity battling the unholy trinity

 for the salvation of mankind
 as God's kingdom advances with the Gospel
 against the kingdom of the devil that retaliates with flawed human
† reason
† and philosophy.



 It is a deadly and intense conflict between

 the children of God within the one true church
 and the children of the evil one within the visible church.

On that day Jesus had **come** to the Temple early, **teaching** those assembled the truth about

 God,
 salvation
 and the Kingdom of God.

 Yet, the Pharisees

 sought to cast down His ministry and His reputation
 and challenged His knowledge and authority of the Law of Moses

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 with a woman caught in adultery.

 Unthwarted by His exposure of their sin

 they continued to harass Him

 as He **taught with authority and knowledge,**

 **revealing** that He is the Light of the World –

† the divine truth **sent** by His Father


† to **illuminate**

‡ the path of righteousness


‡ and the way of salvation.

 The Pharisees contested His authority, accusing Him of

 bearing false witness about Himself

 and seeking His advantage at their disadvantage.


 Again He **confronted** them with

 their sin of unbelief

 and the due penalty of unrepentance:

† dying in their sin

† and receiving **eternal punishment** and **divine wrath.**


 Furthermore, He **encouraged** them to repent and He, the Son of God, would **set them free** from both

 the bondage and the penalty of

 their unbelief

 and their murderous intent.


 The leaders of the visible Jewish Church confidently

 pointed to their family lineage with Abraham as proof of their legitimacy as children of God

 while disparaging Him

† the Head of the True Church

† as an illegitimate child.

 Christ **dispelled** their claim with the fact that

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 if they were God's children
 they would love Him, God's Son.


 His **exposure** of their denial of the truth and murderous plot against Him revealed their true father –

 Satan –
† the liar
† and murder.



 He **confronted** them with the fact that
 they were unable to believe or bear His teaching
 because they were not children of God.

Here begins our Gospel reading and the reality that
 self-righteous and self-justifying people
 cannot bear the truth and reality of their unbelief.

 Their attack was vicious and personal –
 leaping from a charge of His illegitimate birth and authority
 to accusing Him of both being one of their most despised people groups
† – a Samaritan,
† more than a Gentile,
 and under the influence of an unclean, an evil spirit.

 Jesus **dispatched** their reckless and blasphemous verbal assault against His Father and the Holy Spirit with the reality of His love and trust in God.

 He had **done all** God had commissioned and appointed Him to do, **confirming** it with

 His **intimate and perfect knowledge** of God's will
 that was the basis of His
† preaching,
† teaching
† and miracles.

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 Jesus' entire ministry was marked by
† His **humble and obedient service**
† that **glorified** God
† and He **demanded** they acknowledge the truth
† even as He **warned** them of God's **judgment** against those who
opposed His
‡ **preaching**
‡ and **teaching**.

 He then **confronted** them with the reality of His work –
 **delivering** fallen man
 from the bondage and tyranny of death.

 Jesus **pushed aside** their inability to grasp the spiritual and only see the
physical.

 He **shined** the dazzling light of divine truth,
 **exposing** the darkness of their spiritual blindness
 with the fact He knows and has fellowship both God and Abraham,
 revealing His
† **divine**
† and **eternal** nature.

 God restrained their murderous intent by **restricting** their homicidal action,
ensuring
 that His **death**
 would fulfill the **Spirit-breathed prophesy** of the prophets
† that He must **die**
† as the **cursed** one
† **hanging** on a tree.

This struggle that the heavenly Father willed

 His only begotten and beloved Son **take to Himself** our humanity

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by the **power** of the Holy Spirit



delivering mankind from sin, death and the power of the devil with His innocent suffering and death



and **validated** with His glorious resurrection and ascension



rages this day.



Christ's bride,



the true church –

† you

† and I

† and all the children of God,



battle

† against unbelieving and unrepentant sinners

† to fulfill our LORD's Great Commission

† through our evangelism, stewardship and fellowship efforts,

† proclaiming the reality of the one true God –

‡ Father,

‡ Son

‡ and Holy Spirit

† over and against the proclamation of the false and deadly devilish

‡ religions and philosophies

‡ of the children of the devil.



Yet, the most lethal threats come



not from

† Godless heathens,

† false religions

† and unbelievers



but from

† unbelievers and unrepentant sinners

† within the visible church.

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









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 **Christ exposes** with His Word those in the visible church who
 embrace heretical beliefs and positions,
 discounting or denying the infallibility and inspiration of Holy Scripture,
 undermine grace through faith alone,
 discount the primacy of Holy Scripture as the rule and norm of faith,
 promote of secular fame, fortune and position at the expense of the
divine promises made and kept in Christ Jesus,
 denying that there is only one name – Christ Jesus - by which man must
be saved while insisting God will receive unbelievers,
 advance the lie unrepentant sinners and idolaters into heaven,
 endorse and insist sinful and prohibited actions identified in Holy
Scripture are not only acceptable but must be embraced and celebrated,
 bestow legitimacy and support for the murder of the most vulnerable in
society: the unborn, the elderly and the terminally ill,
 overlook or dismiss the spiritual danger in associating with heterodox
churches,
 insist their knowledge of God alone is sufficient justification for
salvation,
 demand the right and authority to question and require an answer from
God for
 † human suffering,
 † injustice
 † and evil,
 discount, disregard and deny His power and authority for their wishes
and desires,
 that God no longer calls His children to positions of leadership and
responsibility within His church,
 prayer is no longer a prerequisite for decisions or actions,

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





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 that a Christian will reach a point where there is no more work for them to do in God's family and they can say, "Soul, you have enough and deserve to rest and retire,
 and on and on and on.

My brothers and sisters in Jesus,

 the one true God **stands** in our midst this morning,
 **calling and commanding** us to remain steadfast in
 Christ's **teachings**,
 trusting Him alone for **our salvation and eternal reward**,
 refusing the seductive invitations and arguments of the flesh, a lost and dying world and the devil
 as we walk with our **Good Shepherd** – the **Good Samaritan**
 by the **power** of the Holy Spirit
 on the path of righteousness to our heavenly Father's home,
 and believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths
 the whole word of God
 until we draw our last breath
 that by hearing it the lost would **believe in Christ Jesus for their salvation**
 and God will **sustain, strengthen, safeguard and comfort** us and all His children
 as His Spirit **conforms** us more and more into the image of Jesus
 and **keep us** in the one true faith until life everlasting.