

Martin Luther Chapel – Pennsauken, NJ
5th Sunday After Pentecost – 14 July 2019

Color: Green

Propers: 10

Divine Service: I

Proper Preface: Common

Sermon Text: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon Title: “Go and do likewise”

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

 He who is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life**
 again stands **graciously and generously**
 in our midst
 this morning.

 While it is much more enticing to immediately “jump into” the Parable of the Good Samaritan

 what is likely more beneficial this morning
 is to look at the conversation
 that precedes and follows it.

 The true Prophet **stood before** the crowd that day,
 having **told His disciples** to rejoice
 for their names were written in the Book of Life
 that is in heaven.

 The true Priest **stood in their midst**
 and **thanked** our heavenly Father
 and **rejoiced**
 that God’s **will is hidden from** the self-righteous and self-justifying
 while it is **revealed to** the children of God.

 Yet, evil that day stalked divine righteousness and wisdom, seeking to
 destroy faith
 and devour weak souls.

Jesus **looks** at you and me and **encourages** us to answer the scribe’s question: “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” We know the answer:

 The Holy Spirit has
 **“called us by the Gospel,**

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 **enlightened us with His gifts”**

 He **does it through** the flesh and blood of:

 Sunday School;

 Vacation Bible School;

 confirmation,

 Bible Studies;

 personal and family devotions;

 and thousands of sermons.

 We believe, teach and confess:

 “I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord,

 or come to Him...”

 The truthful answer to the scribe is “there is nothing you, I or anyone can do to inherit eternal life.

 Eternal life **is the gift of God**

 **clothed** in Christ Jesus

 and **revealed through** the Spirit-breathed

 † writings and teachings

 † of the prophets and apostles.

There is

 no work,

 no legal tender,

 or no intellectual capital

 an individual can exchange for eternal life

 because it was **solely purchased** by Jesus

 with His **all-availing, innocent suffering and death**

 **upon the cross.**

 This truth is offensive to the old Adam

 who seeks to be God

 and gain eternal life

 with his reason and strength.

 Like the scribe, the old Adam looks upon the Messiah

 with disgust and hatred,

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 because Christ **seeks out sinners:**

† wanton and gross sinners like

‡ Matthew,

‡ Zacchaeus,

‡ Mary Magdalene,

‡ the Samaritan woman at the well,

‡ the man born blind,

‡ the woman with the issue of blood,

‡ and you and me;

† those poor in spirit that

‡ cannot purchase eternal life

‡ yet hunger and thirst for God's

 **unwavering righteousness,**

 **unmerited mercy,**

 **steadfast love**

 **and gut-wrenching compassion.**

 It sneers at His disciples because they

 lament their sin,

 admit their inability to free themselves from their sinful condition

 and acknowledge God's **just temporal and eternal punishment.**

 The self-centered and self-gratifying old Adam steps to the other side of the wide path

 so as not to come in contact with such

† weak,

† detestable,

† and pathetic souls

 for he is fatally bound by his

† self-centeredness,

† self-gratification,

† self-righteousness

† and self-justification.

 His loathing is reinforced and encouraged by

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 a self-absorbed world that offers
† emotionally bankrupt and spiritually deadly
† self-help courses,
† philosophies,
† social causes,
† and false religions.

 The legalist revels as the children of the evil one
 pounce upon the His child and His bride,
 beating them ferocity with slanderous accusations of
† intolerance,
† exclusivism,
† indifference,
† and antiquated beliefs and traditions.

 Satan himself joins in the brutal and savage assault by
 tearing away at the child of God's faith
 that by **grace covers the sinner/saint nakedness**
 with the **righteousness of Christ**.

Yet, the Holy One of God **speaks**

 and the old Adam is drown in our baptismal water
 for he is exposed as
† powerless and cursed,
† naked and defeated,
† affronted and disingenuous
† before Christ.

 Jesus was sorely tried by Satan
 immediately after His baptism
† in the Jordan
† by John
 and proved **steadfast and true to God**
† in the face of His own discomfort
† and the dangerous and blasphemous testing.

 Jesus **saw through** the thin façade of idolatry that
 Satan,

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 the scribe,
 the rich young ruler
 and the old Adam
 hide behind
 as they seek to justify human works
 as sufficient to merit eternal life.

 He **exposed** their idolatrous self-worship with a question:
 to the rich young ruler “Why do you call Me good?”
 and to the scribe “What is written in the Law?”

 Jesus **demonstrated** the Law is incapable of giving eternal life
 since no sinner’s works are sufficient to justify themselves
 before a **holy and righteous God**.

 He **used their own words and actions** to
 **expose** their nakedness,
 **unmask** their complete inadequacy
 and **rightly** condemn themselves.

† Satan must grudgingly retreat
‡ before the **rebuke of the Lamb of God**,
† the rich young ruler sadly retreated
‡ before the Incarnate Word
‡ for he worshipped his great temporal riches,
† and the scribe embarrassingly retreated
‡ before the love and mercy of God
‡ for his self-love would not show mercy to

 tax collectors,
 prostitutes,
 adulterers,
 idolaters,
 wanton sinners,
 and the Good Samaritan.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it would be a tragic mistake
 to meditate upon the Parable of the Good Samaritan
 and conclude that it is a message and justification

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 for a social Gospel –
 that through our own works we can relieve the
 grief and distress of
† the poor,
† the vulnerable,
† the outcast,
† or the suffering.

 **Jesus confronts us with the question,**
 “How do you interpret the commandments?”
 as we sit at His feet this morning.

 **He is our teacher**
 and yet far more than just a good teacher,
 He is the
† **very wisdom and love of God**
† **veiled in human flesh.**

 Without the Holy Spirit we would always
 default to legalism and ritualism,
 embrace an inheritance of death
† as we respond in our own sin-filled wisdom,
† lean upon the vain philosophies of the wise men of
this age,
† stand on the quicksand of tolerance that gladly
receives all false religions
† and the proclamation there are many ways
‡ to ascend into the heavens
‡ and have peace
‡ with the god of our understanding.

 Our fallen nature, the old Adam,
 arrogantly and shamelessly
 joins his voice with
† the sin-filled world
† and the evil one,
† mockingly saying “Go and do likewise.”

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God is **worthy of all our thanks and praise** again this morning.

 Our risen Lord **gives us**

 the **one, true answer**

 to the question of **the inheritance of eternal life –**

 it is to **fear, love and trust in God above all things.**

 This is not a natural work in us

 but an alien work God does in us

 by the **power of the Holy Spirit –**

 conceived anew by water and the Word of God,

 **joined to the Son of God/the Son of Man**

 † in a **death like His**

 † and **arising in a resurrection like His.**

 God **creates** in us a clean heart and **upholds** us with right spirit with which He

 **restores,**

 **sustains,**

 **strengthens,**

 **safeguards**

 and **comforts** His children

 in the **joy of His salvation.**

 He **justifies us immediately for Christ's sake**

 and **sanctifies us daily**

 by the power of the Holy Spirit

 for we sin often by

 † what we do

 † and what we fail to do,

 needing

 † **forgiveness,**

 † **transformation** by the renewal of our mind,

 † and **daily communion** with

 † God

 † and His holy ones

 † here in the Church militant.

 God **again this day calls us to**

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 acknowledge Him before all men,
 keep His name holy,
 proclaim **His kingdom in Christ Jesus is here** in us,
 and to submit
 † humbly and obediently
 † to His will
 † spiritually
 † and physically.

Therefore, go and do likewise,

 walking
 † joyfully,
 † willfully
 † and willingly
 beside our risen LORD
 on **His chosen path of righteousness.**
 When **He brings us to a brother or sister**
 who has been fallen upon by evil ones
 who have
 † stripped them,
 † beat them and departed,
 † leaving them half dead
 let us respond with
 † mercy
 † and the gifts
 † God has given us
 as He **applies the means of grace**
 and ready ourselves for Him **to place them upon us.**

Praise and thank God that He **chose us**

 to **place them** upon,
 to **exodus them** with us,
 and to **daily care for them with His chosen means.**
 This is both a spiritual and physical reality.

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 July 28th is designated Friendship Sunday

† He **calls us** to

‡ stop,

‡ prayerfully invite

 family,

 relatives,

 friends

 and neighbors

† here to meet the One

‡ Who calls them by name,

‡ Who heals them of the consequences of sin,

‡ and Who reconciles them to our heavenly
Father

† and lovingly embrace and get to know

‡ all who come that day

‡ at the Divine Service

‡ and at the after service fellowship.

 Our Bi-annual elections

† are quickly approaching

† and we must

‡ prayerfully ready ourselves to respond by

 supporting our nomination committee

 with names of our brothers and sisters

 for each position,

‡ prayerfully make ourselves available

 as He **calls us through His nomination
committee**

 to be considered for a position,

‡ vote for those we prayerfully consider

 best qualified

 for each position,

‡ prayerfully participate

 in whatever capacity

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 God's **calls us**
 **through His newly elected Chapel leadership**

✠ and then

 joyfully thank and praise Him
 for His **gracious provision** to us,
✠ His children,
✠ Heirs of eternal life
 at Martin Luther Chapel.

Praise and thank God that He **has written** your name and my name
in the Book of Life in heaven.

Praise and thank God that He **bids us to go from** here and likewise
show His mercy to our neighbor.

Amen and Amen