

Sermon Text: Luke 13: 22 – 30

Sermon Title: *The Last Day*

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus **warned us** last week against the hypocrisy of

-  seeking human wisdom for
  -  our temporal bodily
  -  advantage and comfort
-  while ignoring divine wisdom for
  -  our eternal spiritual
  -  advantage and comfort.

 God **continues to teach and exhort** us to exert ourselves:

-  to walk with Him on the Path of Life,
-  to remain by His side on the Path of Life,
-  and humbly and obediently
  -  do the will and work
  -  of our heavenly Father
  -  in this time of grace,
-  and finish our exodus with Him on the Path of Life.

Jesus **exerted** Himself to get to Jerusalem and **complete His atoning work** upon the cross on that last day.

 The Lamb of God was **suspended between**

-  God and man,
-  heaven and earth,
-  life and death,
-  holiness and righteousness and profanity and evil
-  on that awesome and terrible day of divine judgment.

 The Son of Man

-  **completed His bloody and fiery baptism**
-  on that day of the LORD's wrath.

 The Prince of Peace **died** and was laid in the tomb with a

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Divine Service: Setting I

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 perishable –  
 a temporal –  
 a dead body  
 on that Good Friday.

 Our King **forever defeated**

 sin,  
 death,  
 and the power of the devil  
 on that last day.

Our LORD once again **revives and strengthens** us

 with His **holy word and precious body and blood**

 on this day of grace as He leads us on the path of life –

 the path walked by the righteous –

 the narrow path that alone leads through temporal death to  
eternal life –

 the path He **originally walked alone** to save mankind –

 the path He has **since walked with all the saints** that now  
rest in glory –

 the path He now **walks with you and me** –

 the path He will **complete with the last living holy ones** on  
the Last Day .

Our risen King **reminds us** this is the day to

 continue walking with Him,

 trusting that His **work on the cross**

 is **perfectly and completely sufficient** for our salvation

 on our exodus from this world

 to our heavenly Father's home.

 This is the day of our spiritual and physical struggle

 where the Holy Spirit **straightens more and more**

 what sin

 bent,

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✠ twisted  
✠ and made crooked  
✠ in the children of men,  
✠ in you and me,  
so that we will  
✠ arise  
✠ and walk aright with Jesus  
✠ even as the sin that still clings to us  
✠ resists,  
✠ rebels,  
✠ and rants  
✠ in a deadly effort to  
✠ lead us astray  
✠ and abandon both  
✠ our LORD  
✠ and our faith  
✠ in His **atoning work**  
✠ **on the cross.**

He warns us,

✠ just as He **warned those** on that day,  
✠ to guard against idolatry and ritualism.

He clearly sees and accurately identifies

✠ any leaven of self-righteousness and self-justification  
✠ that would divide the merit of our salvation  
✠ between His **sacrificial work on the cross**  
✠ and our efforts to merit salvation by  
✠ being a good person,  
✠ trying to improve ourselves,  
✠ or getting rid of some of our bad habits.

He **rejects** the ritualism and hypocrisy of

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 physically being at a Divine Service  
 or Christian Education Class  
 while spiritually,  
 intellectually  
 and emotionally  
 being somewhere else.

Therefore, He **warns** you and me this day against confusing  
 God's work  
 and our work.

 He,  
 who does not need anyone to tell Him  
 the desires  
 and the intention  
 of every human being,  
 **clearly and completely sees and understands**  
 the source and the object  
 of each and every person's faith.

 He **knows those the Father has sent to Him** for  
 He **gathers them to Himself**  
 and **brings them into the Father's presence**  
 as holy,  
 righteous  
 and precious  
 children of God.

 The Holy Spirit **gives you and me**  
 true faith in Jesus alone  
 as the **promised Savior**  
 who has **paid for the sins of all mankind,**  
 specifically yours and mine,  
 with **His innocent suffering and death**  
 once and for all

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✠ on the cross.

✠ God, in the blessed water of Holy Baptism, **joined us** to His Son -  
our LORD.

✠ The Holy Spirit **used**

✠ both His Word and the visible sign of water

✠ to **drown our old sin-filled man**

✠ and we arose out of the water as

✠ the new creation in Christ,

✠ blessed

✠ and righteous.

✠ God has **solely and completed done all this life-giving work**

✠ for you and me

✠ that we may be His

✠ and fellowship with Him

✠ here in time

✠ and there in eternity.

Our heavenly Father **assures us** this day that

✠ we are His children,

✠ freed from

✠ the wages of our sin,

✠ the power of death

✠ and the tyranny of the evil one.

✠ The Triune God

✠ **placed His holy and precious name upon us**

✠ thereby **removing**

✠ any and all claims

✠ of the evil one

✠ upon us.

Our Great High Priest

✠ **continues to feed us** this day

✠ with His **holy Word**

 and His **holy and precious body and blood**  
 by which we grow stronger in Him  
 while the old man grows weaker in power and influence.

The Holy Spirit this day **gives** God's holy ones, you and me,  
 the will and the means  
 to do the good work of proclaiming the Gospel  
 each and every day  
 through our God-given vocations as  
✠ spouses,  
✠ parents,  
✠ siblings,  
✠ relatives,  
✠ neighbors  
✠ and co-workers.

 He **continues to conform us more and more**  
 **into the image** of His Son  
 by **the power of the Holy Spirit**,  
 keeping us steadfast in the one true faith  
 to life everlasting.

Tragically, this is the Last Day for those who have trusted in  
 their efforts and their works to merit  
 salvation,  
 forgiveness of sin,  
 eternal life  
 and fellowship with their dearly departed.  
 They have lived, moved and had their being  
 Faithlessly independent  
 and apart from God  
✠ who **patiently and generously offered** them  
✠ His grace through faith  
✠ at His church

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- ✠ during their allotted time on this earth.
- ✠ They will enter eternity  
✠ with a resurrected body  
✠ and the false confidence that they  
✠ know God,  
✠ are sinless,  
✠ and their efforts and their knowledge of the Bible  
✠ should merit salvation  
✠ and a place in heaven.
- ✠ What they called good God calls evil.
- ✠ Their knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God will no more save them than all those ensnared in  
✠ unbelief,  
✠ false religions  
✠ or Satan and all the fallen angels.

Thankfully, this is the Last Day

- ✠ for those who have received grace by faith  
✠ and for Jesus sake have inherited  
✠ here in time and there in eternity  
✠ salvation,  
✠ forgiveness of sin,  
✠ eternal life,  
✠ and fellowship with God –  
✠ the Father  
✠ and the Son  
✠ and the Holy Spirit –  
✠ the angels and archangels  
✠ and the whole company of heaven.
- ✠ They have lived, moved and had their being  
✠ dependent upon and within God's grace by the faith

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👤 during their allotted time on this earth.  
👤 They will enter eternity with  
👤 a resurrected body like Christ's  
👤 with the sure and trustworthy promise that  
    ✠ God **knows them**,  
    ✠ has **placed** His most holy name upon them,  
    ✠ and **given** them true and eternal life.  
👤 What they called good is good for it was of God.  
👤 Their **God-given faith in Jesus**  
    👤 as God's only begotten Son  
    👤 who died to **pay the wages of their sin**,  
    👤 whose **righteousness is their righteousness**,  
    👤 whose **death was their death**  
    👤 and whose **resurrection is their resurrection**,  
    👤 and whose **true body and blood in, with, and under the bread**  
    **and wine** they received in their mouth  
    👤 is now the very **manna of heaven and living water** will they eat  
    and drink at His wedding feast eternally.

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

👤 we ignore the divine imperative  
👤 to strive to enter through Jesus Christ  
👤 at our own peril.  
👤 Therefore, let us this day  
    👤 believe Him,  
    👤 live this day as if it is the Last Day  
    👤 and, if it is God's will that we shall live, move and have our  
    being on this earth tomorrow,  
    ✠ let us continue our exodus with Christ Jesus,  
    ✠ extol His holy name  
    ✠ and again proclaim and extol the Gospel  
    ✠ telling of His

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✠ love and compassion  
✠ mighty deeds,  
✠ His salvation  
✠  of all mankind  
✠ as long as He gives us  
✠ breath and the opportunity.

Amen. Come LORD Jesus.