

Sermon Text: Gospel Reading: Luke 12: 49 – 56

Sermon Title: “Peace”

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord and our God **continues to teach** us there is a stark contrast between

 the **peaceful fellowship** the holy God has with His children
 and the fleshly fellowship unrepentant mankind has with one another.

 Jesus **speaks** to you and me this day, further **illuminating** the **irreconcilable conflict** between:

 the kingdom of God against the kingdom of the evil one;

 God’s **divine light** versus sin’s obscene darkness;

 God’s **pure and loving peace** in opposition to the flesh’s profane and conditional peace

 The Prince of Peace **testifies** to the truth

 that the **peace He gives** to us, His brothers and sisters, is

 **priceless,**

 **steadfast**

 and **trustworthy**

 while the fallen mankind’s peace is

 conditional,

 transient

 and suspect.

 Our risen LORD’s words are both **comforting and jarring.**

 Comforting for He **speaks of the peace**

 He has **won** with God with

 His **bloody work,**

 His **fiery baptism**

 upon the cross

 is the peace He **gives to**

 the children of God,
 His disciples,
 His brothers and sisters,
 you and me.

 Jarring for the King of kings **speaks of:**

 Fleshly conflict among members of temporal blood relationships

 that must give way

 to the **everlasting spiritual familial relationship;**

 a carnal peace within members of a family

 that must give way

 to the **divine peace within the members of His body.**

 His peace

 was **secured with His steadfast love and faithfulness to God**

 and is this day **sheltered in our heavenly Father's steadfast faithfulness to His Christ.**

 The Lamb of God's peace was **tempered and proven true** in

 the **fiery baptism of God's holy and righteous wrath** for man's rejection and rebellion

 and **His payment for the wages of our sin - death upon the cross.**

 The Good Shepherd's peace is **vouchsafed** by His reign at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

Jesus **tells us** that this spiritual and deadly division with mankind is the result of

 Adam's rebellion and lawless behavior in the Garden of Eden

 and has since been perpetuated ever since by every descendant of Adam, including

 you

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✝ and me.

 Sin has so totally fouled our nature that we are neither able to

 see our sin,

 comprehend its offensiveness to God,

 overcome its complete defilement of

✝ our thoughts,

✝ our words

✝ and our deeds,

 nor combat and defeat its consequences.

 It leads mankind into blasphemous notions that

 we arrive at a point of foolishness in this life where we believe “we have made peace with God,”

 living our lives as best we can

 while at peace with our fellow man.

 The LORD **warns us** that the old Adam seeks

 not only to be God

 but to stand in judgment of God’s justice and holiness

 while overlooking or minimizing His perfect and steadfast love and mercy.

 The world of lost sinners

 are under the bewitchment of the evil one who leads his people to

✝ self-righteously proclaim peace for all

✝ because they embrace and promote his lie that

 “God accepts everyone,

 welcomes all mankind into heaven,

 and would never cast anyone into hell.”

 These and other heretical beliefs and blasphemous philosophies

 keep unrepentant mankind in insurrection and fighting

 against the **almighty and merciful God**.

Thankfully, Christ **continues to reveal and teach us**

 the truth of the stark and unfathomable division between
 God's peace
 and man's peace.

 He again **teaches us**

 that this division is

 so deep,

 so vast,

 so insurmountable

 and so impassable

 by human reason or strength

 that only He,

 true God/true Man,

 **correctly and completely** understands

 and has **spanned this split** between

 heaven and earth,

 God and mankind.

Therefore, He **once more speaks of safeguarding God's holy ones by**

 **dividing,**

 **separating,**

 and **distinguishing**

 that which is **conceived from above by the power of
the Holy Spirit**

 and that which is born of the flesh.

 Jesus has

 recently **spoken to us** about

✝ the foolishness of accumulating temporal wealth as a means to peace in this life

✝ while ignoring the **eternal wealth He brings**
✝ to His church
✝ through His means of grace.

☚ **spoke to us** last week about the significance of keeping our hearts focused on God

✝ for He is our
✝ **true,**
✝ **loving**
✝ and **priceless treasure**

✝ that is
✝ **eternal,**
✝ **non-negotiable**
✝ and **indestructible.**

☚ This morning He **speaks**

☚ **clearly, concisely and forcefully**

☚ that He has **won for us**

✝ **true peace,**
✝ **divine peace,**
✝ **eternal peace,**
✝ **indestructible peace**

☚ with God

☚ by His **fiery baptism on the cross.**

☚ On that day He was

☚ **constrained to walk**

✝ the path of peace

✝ through the dark valleys of hostile sinners,

☚ **ordained to endure**

✝ the angry taunts and mocking insults

✝ of evil men and fallen angels,



committed to confess

✝ the truth and reality of God's salvation

✝ before unbelieving and unrepentant religious and civic rules,



prepared to receive onto Himself

✝ the savage and unjust punishment for sins

✝ He did not commit

✝ by the hands of those He came to in peace

✝ with the gift of salvation

✝ that they would believe in Him and not perish in their own sins,



and **committed to be lifted high upon the cross**

✝ as the **most vile and profane sinner**

✝ **before** the holy and righteous God,

✝ that His **bloody baptism** was

 the **good**,

 the **complete**,

 and the **only acceptable payment** for

✝ mankind's sin,

✝ your sins

✝ and my sins.



Jesus **achieved perfect and eternal peace**



between God and man



by **meeting every demand of the Law**



with His **holy and righteous life**



and **atoning death upon the cross.**



God **willingly and willfully exchanged**

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 the reward earned by His only begotten Son's **innocence and righteousness life** to you and me
 and **laid upon Him** the punishment due our sin-filled and rebellious lives
 **on the cross**
 as **divinely ordained** before creation.

 Jesus did all this in

 **complete trust and unwavering faithfulness,**
 **confident** that He would be
 ✝ the **one,**
 ✝ the **only,**
 ✝ and the **perfect peace offering**
 ✝ **satisfactory and pleasing** to God.

 God **confirmed and rewarded** His faithfulness

 on the third day when He **arose again,**
 **announced peace** to His
 ✝ fearful,
 ✝ hopeful
 ✝ and faithful disciples,

 was **received into the glory of God,**
 and is **now seated at His right hand.**

 Jesus is the **living security** that **God is at peace**

 with His people,
 you and me,
 this day and every day
 until He **comes again in glory**
 when He will **judge the living and the dead.**

My brothers and sisters, Christ has

 **mightily exerted** Himself

 and **victoriously achieved peace**
 between God and mankind
 **through His bloody baptism.**

 Yet, unbelieving and unrepentant mankind continues to rebel against God and remain hostile to His children.

 Jesus speaks to you and me this morning that we would hear and believe that we have peace with God for His sake.

 Yet we are not to be hypocrites,

 expecting true and meaningful peace

 with rebellious and unrepentant

 relatives,

 friends

 and neighbors

 that are

 bound in unbelief,

 ensnared in unrepentance,

 and confident in the fleshly peace

 with which they embrace others.

Christ calls us not to tire or lose hope but to persevere in prayer for their salvation.

 The Prince of Peace **exhorts us to**

 focus our eyes on Him

 even as we experience religious conflict and hostility

 with those we love

 and desire to have true peace.

 He **assures you and me**

 God **faithfully and lovingly inclines His ear**

 **to receive our prayers** for loved ones bound in unbelief.

 His **heart compassionately receives** our cries

✠ for those lost in error's maze.

 Therefore, the Holy Spirit **emboldens us**

 to cast our burdens and cares upon Christ,

 the **founder and perfecter of our faith**

 even as He **warns us against the hypocrisy of**

✠ claiming astuteness in worldly understanding

✠ while remaining indifferent in spiritual wisdom.

Jesus is

 the **faithful and true Prince of Peace**

 who will **never leave us nor forsake us**

 but **abide with us**

✠ through the **fiery and blustery trials and afflictions**

✠ with which the Holy Spirit **sanctifies us**

✠ as He **leads us upward** on the Path of Life

✠ to the **perfect and eternal peace**

✠ with our heavenly Father and all His holy ones.

 Rejoice, Jesus is the

 very **divine peace**

 **through whom** our heavenly Father **gives His peace**

✠ to us

✠ and with each other

 during our exodus from this fallen world of

✠ conflict

✠ and hostility.

 Rejoice, Jesus **will on the last day**

 **completely and eternally divide**

✠ God's holy ones

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✠ from the profane ones,
✠ **casting all who have refused to believe in Him** as their
Savior into eternal
✠ darkness,
✠ anguish,
✠ and hopelessness
✠ and **reclining all who believe in His name,**
✠ our brothers and sisters
✠ you
✠ and me,
✠ at His table
✠ in our heavenly Father's lodging
✠ where we will enjoy perfect fellowship with
✠ Him
✠ and each other
✠ in eternal peace.

Amen and Amen