

Sermon Text: Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25 – 35

Sermon Title: *Teachers and disciples*

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our Teacher

 **turns to us** this morning

 and **instructs** us to

† still ourselves,

† sit at His feet here at Martin Luther Chapel,

† and open our ears

† that His`

 **calls** us His disciples,

 **knows** our names,

 and, therefore, **imparts** again divine wisdom this morning

 that will

‡ sustain,

‡ strengthen,

‡ and safeguard

‡ our faith

 for He **knows**

† we

 live,

 move

 and breath

† in a world of

 false teachers,

 deceived disciples,

 schools of delusional philosophies,

 and bogus courses of instruction

† that seek to draw us away from Him and true teaching

† into the

 dark,

 disorienting
 and deadly school of
✠ liars,
✠ thieves
✠ and murderers.

 The LORD **trains** us to listen for

 His is the one and only Teacher of the Truth
 who **knows** good and rejects evil,
 **provides** true and abundant life where death once held sway,
 and **faithfully and truthfully**
✠ **speaks** about the cost of being His disciple
✠ while **exposing** the
 danger and ever evolving cost
 of being a disciple of the flesh.

Jesus,

 who **counted the cost of our salvation,**
 **is the Chief Cornerstone** of
 the one true faith
 and church –
 the kingdom of God.

 He is **the stumbling block** to unbelieving and unrepentant sinners.

 The Lamb of God **willfully and willingly accepted and paid**

 the price for our salvation
 in full,
 once and for all
 on the cross,
 **trusting** God would **raise Him again** on the third day
 and **seat Him** at His right hand
 where He now **rules over all creation:**
✠ heaven
✠ and earth.

 Upon Him rests
 the Church Militant
 and the Church Triumphant.

The pre-incarnate Word,
 who **knew no sin**,
 **conversed with** our heavenly Father
 before the foundation of the world
 and **considered the cost** of defeating
 sin,
 death
 and the evil one
 as **true man** –
 without recourse to His divinity,
 to **live as the son of a virgin** of low estate
 instead of the son of a monarch,
 **summoning** to Himself disciples that would misunderstand
 His Messiahship
 and the establishment of His kingdom,
 **forming** them into the preachers and teachers
 of the new covenant in His blood,
 who would
 baptize people the name
 of the Father,
 and of the Son
 and of the Holy Spirit,
 making disciples
 and teaching them all He commanded,
 even as He **single-handedly taught** the whole counsel of God
 in the face of self-righteous religious leaders
 and a people who promoted their
 laws,

 codes

 and teachings

† over and above God's.

 Our Good Teacher then **took upon Himself**

 the full measure of divine wrath for sin

 that all the sins of mankind

 would be paid in full by His holy, innocent suffering and death on the cross.

 This was the

† counsel,

† the will

† and the desire

† of each person of the Godhead –

 that God would be reconciled with man through the God/Man Christ Jesus.

Jesus is the only trustworthy Teacher who

 **made** all God the Father willed

 and **then formed** Adam and Eve in the divine image,

 **breathed** the Lord and Giver of Life into them,

 and **instructed** them in the wisdom of God

 during the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden.

 When an illegitimate and murderous teacher deceived them

 with a false, profane and slanderous teaching

 about the love and truthfulness of God

 the Good Teacher

† **came** to them,

† **called** them to Himself,

† **exposed** the dishonest teaching and teacher,

† **identified** them as willing and willful disciples of

 sin,
 death,
 and the liar and murderer,
† and **rightfully expelled** them
 from the perfect classroom of the Garden
 into the dangerous and chaotic classroom of the newly
created world
 that then groaned under the weight of their sin.

 Yet, God **loved those He formed**
 and **would not abandon them,**
 or you and me,
 to the just present and eternal punishment
 they earned on that dark day
 but **promised** them He would **continue to educate**
† them and their heritage in truth and life
† even as the slander, sin, and death
 would coach and guide mankind
 in the way of eternal
‡ suffering
‡ and anguish.

In the fullness of time our Good Teacher **came,**
 just as He **promised,**
 **willingly and willfully** taking on frail and mortal flesh,
 **directing, correcting and making right**
 with His **preaching, teaching and healing**
 those suffering the consequences of sin.
 Every breath **He drew in,**
 every Word **He spoke,**
 every step He **took** had to be
 perfect,
 without spot,

 and complete
 for the salvation of mankind
 depended upon it.

 One error, one misstep, one errant thought, word or deed would disqualify Him as
 the Savior,
 our only hope.

Just as on that day when He **spoke** about the cost of discipleship to those that followed Him

 He **speaks them again** today
 to you and me as
 both **our Teacher**
 and **risen LORD**.

 He **assures us** there is no neutral ground
 where we may watch the spiritual battle
 wage for our salvation
 and the salvation of
 † those we love
 † and those we know.

 The disciples of rebellion and lawlessness offered Him
 comfort,
 wealth
 and fame
 if He would join their school of
 † religion,
 † philosophy,
 † and thought
 and help them continue to make unbelieving and unrepentant disciples.

 He **refused them** and they hated Him,
 seeking to discount and destroy His teaching and ministry

 with accusations that He was a disciple of the devil,
 verbal traps and snares disguised as questions about the Law or
civil obedience.

 The rabbis of unbelief and unrepentance feared more and more the
loss of

 their disciples,
 their school,
 their prestige,
 their power
 and their wealth
 as His **teaching increased in favor** with the people
 and His disciples in number.

 They sought one of His own to betray Him

 even as they recruited their own disciples
 as witnesses
 to accuse Him of
 † blasphemy
 † and false teaching.

 Then, on the night when the Rabbi from Nazareth was betrayed,

 they sent their temple guards
 with Roman soldiers,
 arrested and abused Him,
 confronted Him with false witnesses,
 and in frustration and rage demanded He confirm that He is
 † **the Son of God,**
 † **the Anointed One,**
 † **the Messiah.**

 The Good Teacher

 **spoke** the truth
 and **maintained** His faithful confession
 all the way to the cross.

 He **arose on the third day** just

 as was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets
 and as He **taught and promised** His disciples.

 The risen Teacher **came** to His disciples with

 **words of peace**

 and the **promise of the Holy Spirit**

 that would

 **sustain,**

 **strengthen,**

 **safeguard**

 **and comfort them**

 even as the teachers of rebellion and lawlessness would seek to

 murder the His apostles and disciples

 and destroy His Church.

 He **prevailed** – they failed.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our Good Teacher **summons** us to
acknowledge the cost of being His disciple.

 The teachers of rebellion and lawlessness

 will beckon and attempt to recruit us

 into their school as their disciples,

 promising us worldly comfort, wealth and position.

 They will

 hate our refusal to be their disciples

 and accuse us of

 exclusivism,

 social phobias,

 intolerance,

 false teachings,

 and antiquated beliefs and practices.

 Yet, their teachings and their disciples are

 fatally flawed and perishing,

 hopelessly resting on the shifting sand of
† world religions
† and philosophies.

 Their teachers and their faith
 are without life
 and on the Last Day
 both the teachers and the disciples of rebellion
 will be **cast into the outer darkness** of
† eternal suffering
† and anguish.

The Good Teacher **instructs** us and all His disciples throughout all the ages
to

 trust the living faith
 He has **given us**
 for it **will be tested** in
† fiery trials
† and afflictions
 and found true.

 He teaches us to stand confidently upon Him,
 the Rock of our Salvation,
 for He **joins us as living stones**
 as He **continues to build the one true Church** in both
† time
† and eternity.

 He **trains us** to
 take refuge in Himself
 who is the sure and steadfast refuge –
 fortress –
 defense
 against sin, death and the power of the evil one.

 Our Rabbi and our God-given faith are full of



true,



abundant



and eternal life



and on the Last Day



He will **gather** us,

† His disciples –

† His brothers and sisters –

† God's holy ones,



and **bring us into** the eternal abode of our heavenly Father



where He will **recline us** at His table



at His eternal Wedding Feast



in divine

† **love,**

† **peace**

† **and joy.**

We must refuse to be disciples of false teachers of worldly wealth,
power and fame for the cost is too great.

Rather, let us, by the power of the Holy Spirit remain His faithful
disciples for the eternal love, joy and peace are worth much more
than the cost.\

Amen and Amen.