

Faith in Christ Lutheran Church
Morning Devotion, Thursday, 5/7/20

Readings: Psalm 17:7-15, Leviticus 17:1-16, Luke 10:23-42

Catechetical readings:

[From Dr. Luther's commentary on the epistle to the Galatians]

We concede that good works and love must also be taught; but this must be done in its proper time and place, that is when the question has to do with works, apart from this chief doctrine. But here the point of issue is how we are justified and attain eternal life. To this we answer with Paul: We are pronounced righteous solely by faith in Christ, not by the works of the Law or by love. This is not because we reject works or love, as our adversaries accuse us of doing, but because we refuse to let ourselves be distracted from the principal point at issue here, as Satan is trying to do. So since we are now dealing with the topic of justification, we reject and condemn works; for this topic will not allow of any discussion of good works. On this issue, therefore, we simply cut off the laws and all works of the law. [LW 26:137]

[From Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord III 28-30]

Troubled hearts should have a firm, sure consolation. Also, due honor should be given to Christ's merit and God's grace. Therefore, the Scriptures teach that the righteousness of faith before God stands only in the gracious reconciliation or the forgiveness of sins, which is presented to us out of pure grace, only for the sake of the merit of the Mediator, Christ. This is received through faith alone in the Gospel promise. In the same way also, in justification before God, faith relies neither on contrition nor on love or other virtues. Faith relies on Christ alone and on His complete obedience by which He has fulfilled the Law for us. This obedience is credited to believers for righteousness.

From the Pastor:

It should be a great comfort to us when we read this passage of Leviticus. For though it speaks of where one should sacrifice their offerings to the Lord and why one shouldn't eat the blood of animals this is not meaningless to us as Christians. It all speaks of Christ. For Christ would be to us the final peace offering to the Lord on our behalf. If it was not for his sacrifice the offerings made in Leviticus would be of no use whatsoever. For only through Christ's suffering and death are our works made acceptable before God. And see how the blood was not to be eaten because the life was in the blood. This was to be offered to God, that the life of those at the temple might be spared. And so Christ has given his own life for our sake by pouring out His blood upon the cross. This blood he now gives to us in His Supper, that we might receive the life given on the cross for as we are told in Leviticus 17, the life is in the blood! What great comfort we then receive in the eating of His blood! For here we receive life and salvation! Therefore, "*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*" Hebrews 10:23-25

Prayer of the day:

Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and Forever.