

founded on forgiveness and where there is no forgiveness, there is no kingdom. It's not about our own rights or receiving justice for being wronged. As followers of Jesus it is about pure pardon, grace upon grace, and service to our neighbor. This is a hard pill to swallow indeed, and we can come up with a million reasons why we are exempt from the command to forgive, but Jesus is clear, "If you want to be forgiven, you must practice forgiveness."

Our Lord modeled this perfectly for us on the cross of Calvary. He forgave those who nailed him to cross between two thieves. He pardoned his friends for abandoning him in his direst hour. He will help us forgive when we are betrayed so that we can be free to live fully in his glorious kingdom. Amen

As the parable indicates, we are indebted to the King. Our sin-debt should cost us our lives (Rom 6:23) but God is merciful, forgiving us and making us into new persons. He now expects his new people to live like citizens of his kingdom. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to do other good works. Having been shown mercy, we are now to live like the King's people. However, take note that living like a good citizen of the kingdom is not what saved the servant in the parable. He was condemned but then forgiven while he was indebted to his king. We too, were shown mercy while we were still sinners (Rom 5:8). We did not do one thing that could earn God's forgiveness. He freely forgave us because of his great mercy for Christ's sake. Now he expects us to live like new people, still depending with faith upon his mercy, while doing what is merely expected of godly people.



Prayer on entering the Lutheran Church of the Cross
Our Father, help us to be silent; Help us to be thoughtful of You and other worshippers; Help us to be reverent; for this is Your House. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 612, Mansfield, PA 16933

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13th, 2020

Minister: The Rev. Raymond Dean Forsythe

PO Box 13, Covington, PA 16917

Office Phone: 570/659-0241

Pastor's Cell Phone 570/439-5609

Web Site: www.lutheranchurchotc.org

We are a member congregation of the:



A SPECIAL WELCOME!

We welcome you our friends in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ to **Lutheran Church of the Cross** where God's name is honored, God's word is heard, and God's presence made real and the Cross of Christ lifted high. Here may the sorrowing find comfort; the weary find rest; sinners find forgiveness; the troubled experience peace; the stranger needed friends; and to all people: God's abiding love.

Let's enter our worship in Silent Prayer

Opening Thoughts

Forgiveness is often a very difficult subject, even for those who know that we are called to forgive if we want to be forgiven. In our human sinfulness we seek to justify ourselves, coming up with reasons why our brother or sister does not deserve to be forgiven. Joseph speaks a word of forgiveness to his scheming brothers, pointing to the reality that God can work through great pain to bring healing of relationships.

Our Service starts on page 21 of the Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, with the brief order of

Confession and Forgiveness.

Opening Words

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Hymn 233

Take My Life, That I May Be

GIORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

SALUTATION page 24

2

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Pentecost 15 - September 13, 2020

Then Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive

him? As many as seven times?"

- Matthew 18:21 -

Forgiveness is one of the hardest parts of the faith we struggle with, probably because our memories are long. We are capable of harboring a grudge longer than we can stick with most anything else. Good thing for us that God is not like that! He has an even longer memory, to be sure, but his mercy endures forever. We need Jesus to help us in the forgiveness department. When we seem to be unable to pardon someone who has hurt us, sometimes we simply need to give it over to Jesus who will help us let go of the pain of betrayal.

In Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant, however, Christ shows us our own stubbornness and hard-heartedness, just in case we think we are purely victims of other people's sin. A man who had a huge debt was forgiven but when it came time to forgive another who owed him a debt, he became self-righteous and demanding. Can we put ourselves in his place? The fact is that we have a long memory for being wronged by others but our recollection of times we have injured someone else is fleetingly short. Our emotions get the best of us at times and all we can see are our own injuries and not the ones we have inflicted on others.

Jesus told Peter that forgiving someone who wronged him was something we are called to do repeatedly. Not just seven times, but as many as it takes! The kingdom of God is

23

all. **How we respond to our transgressions is a large part (perhaps the largest part) of how we bless God.** Verse three reminds us that one of the many benefits we receive from God is forgiveness of sin. **When we turn from evil back to God, he is blessed—by all that is within us.**

Second Reading - Romans 14:1-12

It is easy to be right; just get in the last word. At least you will feel like you won the argument. There is a better way to get in the last word though, and by doing so, you will indeed be right—even righteous. Say, “I am sorry.” Say, “I forgive.” Do not say anything: sometimes silence speaks volumes. Quarreling is easy. The sort of forgiveness that silently withholds judgment is difficult. We will all give account of ourselves to God, and he will have the last word, after all.

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

There is no reason to think Jesus is being hyperbolic in verse 35. He meant what he said. The conduct of the Christian community is to forgive since we have been forgiven (Matt 6:12). We cannot be forgiven when we do not forgive. This is not because God is not large enough to do so, but that we are not large enough in heart to receive what we have refused to give. Look back to the example of Joseph. We might argue he had every right to withhold forgiveness to his brothers. Yet, he forgave them over and over again, perhaps as much as “seventy times seven times” (Matt 18:22, KJV).

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you. A Let us pray. . C. O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The FIRST LESSON

is from the 50th chapter of Genesis

First Reading:

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph’s Brothers Conspire Against Him

After the death of Jacob their father, Joseph’s brothers continued to look out for themselves by coming up with a plan to procure Joseph’s forgiveness for their prior betrayal of him. Joseph, despite what he had suffered, was able to see God at work for good, even when his brothers’ intentions and actions were evil.

Genesis 50:15-21 (NKJV)

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."

16 So they sent *messengers* to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you."' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face,

and they said, "Behold, we *are* your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God?"

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Here ends the reading" C Thanks be to God

PSALMODY

Psalm 103:1-12

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

The psalmist sang of the God of forgiveness and praised him for his ways throughout the history of Israel. God's steadfast love covers our sins and brings justice for the oppressed. His love for us is as high as the heavens!

Psalm 103:1-12 (NKJV)

1 A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name!

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all

His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,

4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagles.

6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

God is able to turn evil into good. A perfect example of this is that he redeems our life from the pits of sin and death. The evil we did to his Son, he used for the good of us all. Does this mean we ought to do evil so that good will result? As the King James Version exclaims in response to a similar question, "God forbid" (Rom 6:2). We will all have to give an account for the lives we have lived, "whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5:10). Therefore, we ought to do the good thing when someone wrongs us; we ought to forgive them—each and every time.

First Reading - Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph is the picture of what it means to forgive. Even though his brothers were still scheming all those years later, Joseph was humble. He could have held it over their heads. He could have taken off their heads. The latter is the power they feared, so they plotted against him again. They lied about their father's last words. Joseph likely saw through this collusion but chose to forgive. It was easier for him to do so, knowing that God was in control—not his brothers.

Psalm - Psalm 103:1-12

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut 6:5). The psalmist says it this way: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!" We are to love and bless him with our entire being. But who can do so without the help of the Lord?

We all can do so. The psalmist does not demand perfect works, but leaves room for the iniquity that befalls us

Governor & Mrs. Tom Wolf

Remember to Pray for these Special Needs:

All the Service men and women and those in HARM'S

WAY: Sgt. Andreas Wagner, Pvt. Derek Stevens

Physical Needs:

Our Police Forces, Bob Lyle and his wife, Mrs. Nancy Forsythe, Pastor Forsythe, Mertella Smith, Gene and Patricia, Tom Matczak, Lou Mitcheltree, Frank Williams, Elaine Beller, Wayne Beller, All the sick, Mabel Emerson, Joan McDougal, Joey Ketner, Rodney, and Ricky Smith, Clifford Short, Ryan Bogaczyk, Larry Moran, Robert Gaylord, Jonathan P. Matczak, Dwayne Goodwin, Ruth Anne Machmer, Jeff Garges, Brandon Garges, Dylan, Ryan, & Madison Earl, Jesse, Victims of disasters, Gibson, Those in Nursing Homes, Our Children, Teens, and youth program

7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

9 He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *So* great is His mercy toward those who fear Him

12 As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us;

The SECOND LESSON is from the 14th Chapter of Romans

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Paul Explains Differences in Piety

Paul taught the Roman Christians that people express their faith in ways that might be different from one another. One may eat meat while another refrains from eating meat. One may observe a day as special while another sees it as any other day. This is done by faith; personal piety is not meant to be judged as we all live unto the Lord.
..*****

Romans 14:1-12 (NKJV)

- 1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things.
- 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables.
- 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let

A Prayer for Each day of the coming week.

Steadfast God, your mercy is everlasting and your forgiveness boundless. As we gather together and receive your word of forgiveness in the gospel proclaimed and the meal shared, renew us in the gift of baptism that we may be signs of reconciliation for the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

5 One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

6 He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. **Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.** 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: "*As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.*" 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

Here ends the reading" C Thanks be to God

The Hallelujah Page 25

The GOSPEL LESSON

is from 16th Chapter of St. Matthew

Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: We need to know of those in need of

PRAYER! Ask the person if they would like their name on our LIST!

Our Sister Churches:

Hope Lutheran Church Smethport Pastor: Need a Pastor

WESTERN MISSION DISTRICT CHURCHES

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montourville

Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher

Canby Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg

Pastor: Rev. Stan Bower

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, State College

Pastor: Rev. Logan Wilmoth

St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Maurer

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill

Pastor: Rev. Steve Shipman

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millersburg

Pastor: Rev. Mark

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seven Valleys

Pastor: Rev. Lawrence Cummings

St. Jacob Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glen Rock

Pastor: Rev. Paula L. Murray

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown

Pastor: Rev. Nathan C. Mlinich

Plus Ours: Lutheran Church of the Cross

Pastor: Rev. Raymond D. Forsythe

Remember to Pray for our Leaders:

Bishop and Mrs. Dan Selbo - NALC

President & Mrs. Donald Trump

NOTICES OF EVENTS

For September 13, 2020

We are meeting at 717 Lambs Creek Road, in Mansfield.

The Bulletins are sponsored by the ? . Sponsors are needed. You may sponsor one or more weeks at a time.

The Cost is \$5.00 Per Week Please give to the Pastor Forsythe. Checks made out to Lutheran Church of the Cross.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday at 9:45AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School After Service

PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at the Garges' at 6:00 PM

Card and Flower Ministry

Contact Nancy Forsythe at 659-0241 if you know of someone who is in the hospital or is sick. We need to start a flower fund so we have funds to purchase flowers for those who are sick.

Our Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request please call the following numbers and give your prayer request. Be brief and to the point Call 659-0241.

If you want to be on our Prayer Chain tell Nancy Forsythe.

We are: Christ-Center Mission-Driven / Traditionally-Grounded Congregationally / Focused

Last Week's Record 9/6/2020

A. Attendance 11 B. Offering - \$156.00

Peter posed a question to Jesus about the number of times one offers forgiveness to those who have done wrong. Jesus' parable reminds us that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. To withhold such a blessing from others is to fail to appreciate the true meaning of having our own debts wiped away.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NKJV)

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they

were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.'

33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'

34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

The Gospel of the LORD

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe

"To Forgive"

The APOSTLES' CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

PLEASE Note:

All We Need To Serve Our Lord

1. To Have A Willingness To Serve
2. To Expect the impossible
3. To Have Confidence in God And Yourself
4. To Show Compassion

TO BELIEVE:

GOD IS THE GOD WHO SAVES

Communion. Children not yet communing may come forward and receive a blessing from the Pastor Forsythe.

NUNC DIMITTS page 38

THANKSGIVING page 38

BENEDICAMUS page 38

BENEDICTION Page 38

CLOSING HYMN # 177

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

in our hearts...(pause) Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

A For all those who have died in the promise and power of the of resurrection, that held in your eternal keeping they may come with us to that new day when you work within us all far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, and to you be all glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Lord, in your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

P. Merciful Father, guided by your Holy Spirit, we are confident that you know our needs and that you hear our prayers and so we place all for whom we pray into your loving care for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

HOLY COMMUNION Page 31

P. *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C. *And also with you.*

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 85

Break Thou the Bread of Life

PREFACE page 33

SANCTUS page 35

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION page 36

AGNUS DEI page 37

DISTRIBUTION

All those who are baptized are welcome to join us to receive the precious gifts of forgiveness and community as the Lord comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy

**GOD IS THE GOD WHO HEALS
GOD IS THE GOD WHO DELIVERS**

**“TO HAVE THE FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED IS
TO SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE THINGS HAPPEN IN
OUR LIVES”**

**JUST BECAUSE WE ARE SMALL DOESN'T
MEAN WE CAN'T DO WHAT GOD WANTS US
TO DO!**

Today's Notes

Forgiveness is a wondrous gift we give to others and to ourselves. When we truly understand the forgiveness of Christ, we are more able to offer that same forgiveness to others. Christ forgives our debt of sin and offers us new life.

Have you ever wondered about a group's piety that was different from your own? For example, the Orthodox churches adorn their cathedrals with beautiful mosaics. Roman churches have many statues. How are these a part of faith?

FIRST

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph's Brothers Conspire Against Him

“To Forgive”

SECOND

Psalm 103:1-12

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

“To Forgive”

THIRD

Romans 14:1-12

Paul Explains Differences in Piety

Paul taught the Roman Christians that people express their faith in ways that might be different from one another.

1. Authority

FOURTH

Matthew 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

“To Forgive”

“God’s Word to us today!”

SERMON HYMN No. 78

Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus

Note

God and faith in our risen Lord Jesus Christ: and that meditating on Your precepts and fixing their eyes on Your ways, they may declare all the just decrees of Your mouth. Lord, in your mercy: C Hear our prayer.

A Let the cross of Christ be our source of hope and power in this congregation. May we never be ashamed of the foolishness of Christ crucified, but may we boldly proclaim the cross as your wisdom and righteousness, that many will experience its life-giving power. Lord, in your mercy, C Hear our prayer.

A Fill us with your Spirit, so that we desire to walk as children of light who try to discern what is pleasing to you. Give us your wisdom, so that we take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them so that the truth is made known. Help us to make the best use of our time, realizing the days are evil and time is of the essence to proclaim Christ as Lord to the world. Lord, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.

A God of power and might, you alone are the true ruler of the world. All authority comes from you. Bless the leaders of the nations, that they may know the truth and lead their people according to it. We pray for our own nation – *the members of congress, the supreme court justices, all governors, state legislators, mayors and councils.* Guide and direct them to know and do your will. Lord, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.

A For the persecuted Church: that remembering the eternal house of God not made with hands, they may persuade others with their reverent fear of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy. C hear our prayer.

A Hear the cry of the righteous, and save all whose spirits are crushed. Grant them healing and wholeness in Jesus name. We especially pray for those we name before you, aloud or

L. Almighty God our heavenly Father, we thank you this day for the hope of life we have through your Son Jesus, the Living Word. Help us to know like the Apostle Peter that there is nowhere else to go, because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. Empower us to tell others, so that they might know him as well. Lord, in your mercy. **C hear our prayer.**

A. Father, may all of us of the Lutheran Church of the Cross be Your influence of the love You want us to share with others of the gift of salvation for all people. Help us to be the Scriptural Church that draws others. Bless also our sister congregations, **Bethany Lutheran Church, Canby Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, St Luke Lutheran Church, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Jacob Lutheran Church, Salem Lutheran Church,** and all the Pastors, and the churches that need pastors, the NALC Church Body, and all NALC Churches and Scriptural teaching churches, and for missionaries throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. Father, as we pray for our leaders of our nation, strengthen the wills of all who take counsel for the nations. Teach them to use wisely and well the authority and power entrusted to them, so that all people may prosper and live peaceably with one another. **Especially President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence and Governor Tom Wolf,** that they seek your will when making decisions for the welfare of their people. Lord, in your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.
A. We give thanks to You, O Lord, for Bishop Dan Selbo, Pastor Forsythe, former Bishops Paul Spring and John Bradosky, ministers and lay leaders who preach the Word of God, that they may testify to all people of repentance toward

How important is HEAVEN to You? How about a taste of HEAVEN here on earth while we are waited for our eternal HOME IN HEAVEN/

Is it worth giving your all and or all you have to God's control to be part of His kingdom?
How big is your desire for HEAVEN.

Will you be part of God's HOLY FAMILY?
WILL YOU SEEK TO BE HOLY DAILY?

What does TRANSFORMED mean?

From one Thing to Another!

NOTE:.....

The world will take us to Hell!

BUT!!!

God's way will take us to heaven if we walk with Him
and obey His truths!!!

So all who hear and come to the Lord will have His
SALVATION and be saved

*ALL WHO COME WILL BE INCLUDED.
THAT MEANS ALL WHO WALK WITH GOD.*

It starts here!

The 3 Words that lead to SALVATION.

Confess, Believe, Ask

We need to remember each day HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO REPENT OF ANY SIN. IT IS ALSO

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ONCE WE HAVE CONFESED A SIN WITH AN HONEST HEART, THEY ARE FORGIVEN FOR ALL TIME, AND WE NEVER HAVE TO ASK GOD FOR

FORGIVENESS AGAIN. It is also important to learn what salvation really is and what happens when we accept it.

The Lord will take notice and save us from whatever we are concerned about when we talk to Him in Jesus' Name. When we do this in obedience we will experience God's working in our lives.

Note

How can the nations be blessed if we don't share our faith and how can we share our faith if we are not living witnesses of the true living faith of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Requests for LOVE and OBEDIENCE

Jesus indicates to the disciples that to love him with the fullness of their hearts means they will keep his commandments.

OBEDIENCE IS THE ONLY WAY

Believers Must Die to Sin, and Live to God This shows us the necessity of holiness. THE TRUE WAY REQUIRES

ACTION "Great Faith leads to results"

Repentance is key to THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

The importance of pleading the BLOOD of Christ!!

Many are going to HELL, and do you know WHY?

It is because they have no time or concern for God.

It is because other ideas are more important.

It is because they are listening to the wrong teachings.

It is because they are trying to destroy the Christian way of life.

It is because they what their own way.

It is because they were not interested in spiritual things.

IT IS BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE THE WRONG PATH IN LIFE. THERE IS ONE WAY, AND ONLY ONE WAY TO A CHRISTIAN LIFE WITH GOD THE FATHER AS OUR GOD AND JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT AS OUR COMFORTER, THREE PERSONS IN ONE BEING,

FOR THE GOD HEAD IS ONE

And it is because of lots of other reasons that are nothing but weak excuses. **How SAD!**

Why is it so hard for us to focus our lives on holiness and the holy lives God desires us to live. JUST BECAUSE WE ARE DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T BE INCLUDED!

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. C. God of faithfulness, we bring before you the precious gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for those in need and prepare for your Son's advent into our hearts. Amen.

Right before the Prayers of the Church

HYMN # 21

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L. In trust let us pray to God our Father, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit for the needs of the our neighbors near and far. a brief silence.