

The Third Sunday in Lent • C

28 February 2016 • 10:30A

Concordia Lutheran Church & School

836 Park Ave. • Sikeston, MO

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Text: 1 Cor. 10:12-13 & Lk. 13:5 • **Theme:** “Are You a True Penitent?”

Intro.:

- hardest thing to do as a Christian = **forgiveness** = hurt, ultimately our **pride/hubris** (BUT our Lord's warning: **Mt. 6.15**)
- the 2nd hardest thing to do as a Christian = **repentance** = ultimately, our **pride** - OR stubborn unbelief . . .
- we don't believe in the truth of God's righteous judgment
- our Lord's caution re THAT in **Lk. 18.9ff.** . . .

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus addresses yet another of our common sins by saying “. . . **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**”

I. “Repentance” – a definition

- partly I mean WRT yourself, but also WRT others
 - do you know if YOUR repentance is genuine or if you're playing a game – do you insist that others jump thru extra “hoops” when YOU are offended and you want them to repent

A. sorrow/contrition

1. NEVER merely sorry got caught
2. NEVER merely like Judas was “sorry” & committed suicide

B. faith in God's forgiveness

1. always belongs to a proper definition – w/o this, we despair & become like Judas rather than like Peter
2. also important that, no matter our personal hurt, we do this b/c otherwise we can cause others to despair

(C. PARENTHESES ON PURPOSE: evidence or the “fruits” of repentance . . .)

1. but IF you are making notes, be careful about your understanding of this . . . we must NOT make the “fruit” of true repentance into a new requirement for repentance . . .)

II. Why . . . ?

A. the OT reading

1. God DOES want His prophets to speak to ppl to warn them about their sins
 - a. EX. preacher online who doesn't think it's his place to tell his people and warn them when they sin – then I asked him how he could possibly preach the Gospel to them – he's just sure he's not to judge their sins – I asked how he could preach Christ to themselves
2. God does want ppl to repent
3. God WILL judge all impenitence
4. for the record, God does NOT want ANYONE to be lost in impenitence

B. the epistle reading

1. despite the fact that Israel was His “chosen people” He was NOT pleased with their disobedience and impenitence, and He overthrew them in the wilderness a couple of times
2. God doesn't want us to be idolators, sexually immoral, put God to the test, or grumble against Him
3. He didn't let that happen to show us that it's ok, but to show that what they did and His response to them is what we might also expect – this is the Law of God which threatens all who are disobedient
4. Don't blame God for our sins – sin is sin is sin – always our own fault – But there is a way out of the temptation as there is also a way out through repentance – NO NEED for us to continue in any sin

C. the Gospel reading

1. their “judgmental attitude” re why those other ppl died (“they brought it on themselves...”)
2. in their judgment they were looking at everyone else rather than at themselves – God very much wants us to look after ourselves
3. Misreading God's seeming lack of judgment as:
 - He was NOT being patient
 - He kind of winks at sin – BUT cf. **2 Ptr. 3.8ff.**

III. What Jesus knows and wants for you

- ### A. knows your heart – repentance and faith (and resolve)

- B. what Jesus wants you not just to be sorry for your sins but also to believe that He IS the One and Only Who paid for your sins – His whole purpose in coming was NOT to excuse our sins but to pray for them *in toto*
- C. How Jesus wants your heart to be – humbly repentant
1. recognize & repent of your sins
 2. allow yourself to be instructed by His Word to teach you what sin is – AND to be instructed by His Word as to His will for your life
 3. AND to trust God to work all things out for your good – will He EVER steer you wrong? Obviously not . . .

Concl.: WHAT WE ARE LEFT WITH AT THE END OF THIS SERMON?

- **Should you repent? YES. But Can YOU repent? NOPE** – you're too stubborn
- **Should you believe God's promises? YES. But Can YOU decide to believe in God's promises? NOPE** – it goes v. all that you've ever experienced
- **You are expected and required to live God's way! BUT Can YOU decide to live God's way again? NOPE** – you're too weak
- **BUT YOU DON'T COME TO CHURCH B/C YOU CAN DO ALL OF THOSE THINGS – RATHER, YOU COME TO CHURCH B/C YOU HAVE NOT AND YOU CANNOT – BUT HERE YOU RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:**
 - **DIED FOR YOUR SINS TO PAY FOR THEM**
 - **FREELY FORGIVEN BY HIM WHO MOST CERTAINLY DOES LOVE YOU**
 - **HERE YOU ARE RENEWED FOR ANOTHER WEEK of living under His grace, and being graciously taught His loving will**

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- + **STAND for the VOTUM**
- + **OFFERTORY VERSE**
- + **OFFERING**
- + **OFFERING VERSE (LSB 614:1-2)**

1. “As surely as I live,” God said,
 “I would not see the sinner dead.
 I want him turned from error’s ways,
 Repentant, living endless days.”

2. And so our Lord gave this command:
 “Go forth and preach in ev’ry land;
 Bestow on all My pard’ning grace
 Who will repent and mend their ways.”

- + **THE PRAYER of the CHURCH**

Merciful Father, Your salvation is near to those who fear You. Look in kindness upon Your whole Church and pour out on Your family the gift of

repentance that all Your children might be given grace continually to heed Your Word, turn from sin and find forgiveness and life in Your Son. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Giver of salvation, remember all pastors, teachers, missionaries and servants of the Church. Give them courage to speak Your saving Word fearlessly, that it may do its mighty work by Your Spirit's power. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Kind and loving Lord, look in mercy upon this congregation. Remove all hypocrisy from us, and strengthen all our members that we may be living witnesses to Your gift of eternal life in our homes, at work and at play. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Mighty Monarch of our days, to You we commend all who have been entrusted with authority in our land and all who serve in our armed forces. Grant them integrity and honor in all they undertake, and guide them into paths that are pleasing to You. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Holy One, You tell us in Your Word that You do not willingly afflict the sons of men. Hear our prayers for all Your children who are suffering or in need, the lonely and afflicted, the grieving and the dying. Comfort troubled hearts with the promises of Your Word, surround them with Your angels to protect them in body and soul, and grant them a happy release from their afflictions according to Your will. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, You do not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear, but in trial You always provide the way of escape for us to bear it. Remember in pity all those whose faith is put to the test, who struggle with addictions, who feel abandoned. Open the eyes of their spirit to sense You near them, and let them find in Your Word and Sacrament the relief for which they beg. **Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful people of every time and place, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power and great glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

- + **THE LORD'S PRAYER**
- + **THE COLLECT from p. 3 of the bulletin**
- + **THE BENEDICTION**
- + **SENDING HYMN LSB 614:3-6**