

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - ROGATE SUNDAY

05/06/18 Mount Calvary, West View

ACTS 10:34-48, I JOHN 5:1-8, JOHN 15: 9-17

Hymns:

What Is The World to Me LSB 730,

Where Charity and Love Prevail, LSB 845

Theme: Friendly Servants

**+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is the continuation of the Gospel of St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter:

***No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master  
is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father  
I have made known to you.***

He Is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT!i

Rogate Sunday simply means that on this day, we ask the Lord to be with us, since on Thursday, we will be celebrating Ascension Day. Historically the reading for the day is the Gospel of John the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter where Jesus says, *ōTruly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.ö* Asking is the theme of the day, and who does all this asking? Strangers? Pilgrims on earth? Ah, how wonderful are the feet of those that brig the Good News of Godø's Word

as we celebrated last week, for today we learn that we are not servants, but friends.

So, of course you would want our Sermon Hymn to be "What a friend we have in Jesus," and well it would be, that is until I changed it to the one we have today, "Where Charity and Love Prevail."<sup>ii</sup> I did this for a number of reasons, but the main reason is that it fits the purpose of the readings for today so well. For Bible Class, we take the readings for the day and see how they relate to one another given the particular Sunday they have been assigned to. Perhaps I should incorporate the Sermon Hymn pick as well, for this hymn pretty much says it all concerning what Jesus is telling His disciples this day giving us the new commandment to love one another. I will not redo the hymn here; you can read it again at your leisure. Just suffice to say *Es ist dort*: it is in there.

As I said earlier, this is a continuation of last Sunday's reading, where we are to abide in Jesus and He will abide in us. Abiding in Jesus simply means to remain in His Words, believe and trust in Him above all things, and by all means, remain there! Do not be seeking ways to find a new salvation, do not be trying to tell Him how to do the saving grace we so desperately need. Remain in Him and He in you and by God's grace alone you will be at peace, knowing your forgiven by the blood shed on the cross, and saved by faith alone and not in the works you have done. Christianity is not a works righteous religion, even though many have made it out to be such, but hear again the great comfort our Lord teaches, "No longer do I call you servants," When did He ever call us servants? Well, for the longest time the Jews had been teaching that you needed to prove your worth

to God before you could even possibly believe you are in His good graces. After all, the Lord blessed the wealthy, and the poor had been struck down by God. Their evidence was when Jesus said, *“Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.”* And the response of the disciples was of dismay, *“Who then can be saved?”* The Jews were teaching that God obviously favors the temporally blessed so of course the disciples wondered, why is it hard for the rich to enter the salvation of God. Recall also when the disciples came upon the man born blind, and asked of Jesus, *“Rabbi, who sinned? This man or his parents that he was born blind?”* To which Jesus gave the perfect answer to every problem in life, *“It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the glory of God may be shone in his life.”*

The great comfort is that when we try to earn our spot before God, we are faced with such an impossible task that we literally break down and confess before Almighty God that we do have no worthiness in us, and that there is nothing good that redeems us. We must turn to God and ask for forgiveness and ask Him what we can do for salvation. The comfort is that Jesus responds, *“I have done all that is necessary for salvation. It is finished, the Father has accepted My sacrifice, and you are now forgiven. To make this even more comforting, No longer do I call you servants for the servant does not know what his master is doing; I have revealed to you what the Father has done, I have shone you the empty tomb, and I now call you friends.”*

Friends you are, through your baptism, being called a child of God. Friends you

are in coming to the services of God's House and receiving the very Body and Blood by faith in His name. Friends you are in trusting in Christ above human reason and worldly thoughts. The world wants to follow its own way, and it desires to show how it can give a better comfort by forgetting the commands of God, ignoring hell, and telling God He has to forgive because He is love. God is love, but the love of God is that we trust in Him above all things not telling God how He will adjust to us. The Love of God is that He receives us through the Sacraments of Baptism, just as He did to the Jews and gentiles in our Acts reading today. Many were saved not because they told God how He will save, but accepted the Salvation of Christ Jesus alone, and were baptized in His name.

Being baptized simply means you are a child of God, made so by faith alone. Not a servant, but a friend who desires more people to know your great friend. When you have a good friend, you tell people how nice they are, or friendly, or how they will help in any way they can. Jesus is all this and more, so with His forgiveness, we truly do overcome the world in all its vaunted pleasures. Ah yes, Hymn 730, What is the World to Me! The world tries to convince me that this is a wonderful place, but it is nothing compared to Heaven, and you do not want to miss that. So as children of God, as friends of Jesus, we love God and obey His commandments, not because they are harsh and mean, but because they are for our good and comfort.

Indeed, having Jesus is having a joy that surpasses all understanding. When we trust in God above all things, including ourselves, then we have comfort and peace that is

promised, through water of baptism, through blood of the Sacrament of the altar for the forgiveness of sins, through the Spirit that gives you the truth so that faith may more abound, yes, these three agree, remain in the Vine, and you remain a saved child, friend, of the Saving God. Remaining in the vine is not a work, or you would become a servant again. Jesus keeps you in the vine though the Word. Remember, He chose you, and appointed you to bear fruit. Love one another, this we ask in the Fathers name, that He may give to us.

He is Risen! HIRIH;TIMCT... Let us live the new commandment to love one another, for we are no longer servants compelled to do work demanded of us, but friends that truly love one another, especially showing love for those who need to know Christ Jesus for salvation. Let us show love in all we do. Alleluia! In His Most Holy Name, we Pray. **AMEN.**

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL  
UNDERSTANDING KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH  
CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of  
judgment**

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<sup>i</sup> Congregation response: He Is Risen Indeed, Halleluiah!; This Is Most Certainly True!

<sup>ii</sup> LSB 845