

PENTECOST/WHITSUNDAY

05/20/18

*Mount Calvary, West View*

EZEKIEL 37: 1-14, ACTS 2:1-21, JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4B-15

Theme: Helper Fit For Us

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

Our Text is from the Gospel of St. John, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter:

***I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me.***

We have reached WHITSUNDAY, which is just a fancy way of saying Pentecost Sunday. This is the Sunday that I use to bring in the newly confirmed, who have struggled mightily to try and absorb 12 pages of memory work, familiarize themselves with 11 pages of Martin Luther prayers and life lessons, regurgitate 328 plus pages of educational explanations of those 23 previous pages and command no less than 50 tests, pop-quizzes, and other curveballs thrown at them to prepare them, not for this day, but for tomorrow, and every day after. We tend to think of confirmation day as a graduation day, and try as we might to change this thinking, it cannot be forced. You can tell those confirmand graduates that it is only the beginning of their new life with Christ and the Holy Ghost as their guide until your blue in the face, but until they live it and believe it, it will always be

a graduation.

Because of our sinful nature that always wants to pervert and change the way God has established His creation, we need help. We all as sinful human beings need help in navigating our way through this vale of tears. As the latest school shooting shows, we are in desperate need of a comforter. We need a comforter to survive the tragedy, and Mr. Pagourtzis (Pa-gor-tease) needs a comforter to calm his distress that caused him to feel that he needed to respond to life in such a fashion. It seems in all this, as heinous as Mr. Pagourtzis actions are, he needs the comfort that only the Holy Spirit can provide. He is not going to find such comfort in the mental institutions. He is not going to find it in the death penalty. He is not even going to find such comfort in a jail cell. However, he is going to find it in the faith that comes from Jesus Christ, and proceeds from the Father, The Holy Ghost, The Comforter.

For this is why the Holy Ghost was sent to our world. We are lost and condemned creatures. Not by any fault of God, but by our own fault. God made this a wonderful world, and it still is, if you have the comfort that comes from The Comforter to see the world through the eyes of such faith and not with earthly eyes. When I look outside I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them bloom for me and you. And I think to myself, what a wonderful world. I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night. And I think to myself, what a wonderful world. The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky are also on faces of people going by. I see friends shaking

hands, saying, "How do you do!" but perhaps they are really saying "I love you." I hear babies crying and as I watch them grow, I know they will learn much more than I'll never know; and that is OK, for this is a wonderful world that God has made. Just because there are some that cannot see the beauty of the creation God has made should not discourage us from the task at hand ó to tell everyone the great forgiveness from God to comfort the hurting soul that needs to know the love of God in that forgiveness.

It is not a new thing that people cannot see the beautiful Forrest of God because they are too focused on the weeds of sin. Ezekiel showed us the despair that the Israelites faced as they were crying out to Almighty God, ***"Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off."*** They declared this because so many were dying and being oppressed in every which way; they were exiled far from the promised land and despaired of God's mercy. Yet, ever the loving God, He gave them the promise, ***"Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people."*** He is referring, of course to the end of time, but you never have to wait on the Lord that long, for He promises something for right now, ***"And I will put My Spirit [The Comforter] within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I Am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."***

Oh. That is nice, Pastor, but that is for the people of the Old Testament. What about us newbies? Well, what did Peter tell us after the people saw the mighty hand of the Lord proceeding forth the Holy Ghost to the apostles and disciples? *“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.”* Ah, better days are coming, if we are faithful and remain in the Spirit of our God. But what of now? As I said, God never leaves us desolate wanting more, *“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,”* and there is the comfort.

Today, as you call upon the Lord you receive salvation for your soul. You are saved by the proper confession you made of your sins and comforted by the Holy Ghost that makes you believe the words which I said to you that the Heavenly Father hath had mercy upon you and hath given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgiveth you all your sins. You believe in His name therefore you are a child of God and hath been promised the Holy Spirit. You believe, and you are baptized; therefore, you are saved. There is nothing more comforting than the comforter that makes this reality solid in your mind and therefore you fear no evil as you venture though this valley of the shadow of

death.

The Holy Spirit is the helper fit for us for we cannot survive this world without His comfort. As Adam searched paradise to find a helper fit for him, so do the lost in this world search for a helper to guide them and comfort them. They need to hear of the Holy Trinity, where The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost all work to bring comfort to the hurting and lost soul in this world separated from God. Is this possible? Well I see Churches that preach God's holy Word, to those in need of forgiveness to be heard, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world. I see the water and Word, the body and blood, offered as God's own saving flood, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world. You are witnesses of all that the Lord can and does do so help the lost see the love and comfort of knowing, trusting, and believing in the one True God, and the vision of forgiveness that makes us see a world so much better than we perceive with earthly eyes. 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**