

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY *Mount Calvary, West View 06/03/18*

DEUTERONOMY 5:12-15, II CORINTHIANS 4:5-12, MARK 2:23-28

*Hymns LSB 566 “By Grace I’m Saved Free and Boundless”*

*LSB 906 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”*

*LSB 506 “Glory Be to God the Father”*

Theme: Lord of the Rings? Dance? Sabbath? You?

+ **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter:

*The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*

You might be picking up on a pattern here. For the last three Sermons or so, we have touched upon music or more specifically certain songs and hymns that are somewhat reflective in the text for the day. I am not saying they are ðplannedö as such, nor should you expect this to continue for the next 25 Sundays, but today there was an extremely obvious one that needed to be addressed for it fits perfectly with our text theme for today.

The question we have for today is what is Jesus the Lord of really? And this question is a problem, for this world has many ways of looking at Jesus but not getting it right. And can you expect it to do so? It has no faith and trust in Jesus as the Second Person of the Trinity, so how can it know of Jesus and Who He really is? People like to play Word Association, and with these young people nowadays, if you ask them to fill in the blank for the term, ðLord of \_\_\_\_ö you most likely will get the answer, ðRingsö, for the Lord of the Rings trilogy has captured the imaginations of our young people 30 something and under as no other trilogy has since Star Wars. It has sold 150 million copies since its publication in 1954 and has surpassed the book of Mormon in total sales. (I wonder if that is because most of the BsOM are given

away?) With this kind of popularity with the younger populace ó for it is not just the books, but the fantasy cosplay, the comic-cons, the passing quotes to one another as they identify each other on the paths like some sort of secrete cult handshake. (óYou cannot Pass! Back to the Shadows with you!ö óNot all who wonder are lost.ö ó bet you didn't know that was from Lord Of the Rings did you!) It is no wonder that these kids do not think of Jesus as their Lord, when they hear the word, LORD. They spend more time searching the JRR Tolkien tomes to find meaning for their existence than they do Holy Scriptures.

But they are not the only ones. Move up a few generations to where I and some of you are and when asking to fill in the blank for the term, óLord of \_\_\_\_ö you most likely will get the answer, óDanceö, for in *our* time there was the ever-popular hippie jingle óLord of the Danceö, written in 1963, the beginning of hippieism in my humble opinion. I admit, it is a catchy jingle, however, stolen from the Shakers of all denominations. If memory serves, they are supposed to NOT dance! Well, not outside of worship that is. The song itself has been labeled a hymn, and has been in many Americanized hymnals, yet it is not a Lutheran Hymn. Though it may speak of Christ, and though it may speak of His life and interactions of the people who either believed or not, hear from the composer's own words, óI see Christ as the incarnation of the piper who is calling us. He dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality. By Christ I mean not only Jesus; in other times and places, other planets, there may be other Lords of the Dance.ö This is why we cannot have this hymn in our worship, for it leaves uncertainty as to who this LORD is, by the author's own admission and purpose! It is fine for personal use, shall we say (if you want to sing it at home or in the car, and you find the song personally uplifting like the Footprints poem, then by all means enjoy it), but as for worship use, it fails the Christian test let alone the Lutheran test so not acceptable for Lutheran Worship. Worship hymns should be about what worship is, Word and Sacrament Ministry. Hymns like *By Grace I'm Saved*, *Grace Free and Boundless!* and, *O Day of Rest and Gladness*. These hymns express our faith in a Triune God Who has done more than ambiguously ódancedö. Christ has

died, Christ has rose, Christ has sent the Holy Ghost into our world to give us the FREE gift of Eternal life through Word and Sacrament. These are the things that make the day bright and beautiful and certainly worth living.

Which brings us to our text. Jesus is the Lord of this day, we call the Sabbath day. It is our Sabbath day for Jesus has won for us the victory through the cross of Calvary and has given us the everlasting peace of being children of the heavenly Father. Now, there are some children of rather powerful individuals in this world that feel they can get away with anything, because their father will bail them out. They can drive drunk, or high, and when they get caught, well, daddy will take care of it. And daddy does, many times. People could look at the disciples in our text, picking grains on the Sabbath to eat, and ödaddyö, Jesus, is letting them off, but you would be wrong. Search the scriptures and you will find not a Law that the disciples broke, but even a command that they fulfilled, ***öIf you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag. If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.ö*** Well then! What seems to be the problem? Jesus addresses the problem in that the laws that the Pharisees were enforcing were man made regulations, and Jesus supersedes such things, for He is Lord of the Sabbath and He declares what is Sabbath-proper and what is not!

And to assure more grace upon grace, He lets us in on a very big secret apparently: the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. In other words, we are to enjoy the Sabbath rest, and not impose ridiculous regulations that are harmful to faith. This is why we invite everyone to worship with us. All are asked to come and hear the Word, and if the WORD moves you to faith, then by all means, come to the blessed waters of Baptism and have those sins washed away, and if your faith is such that you can examine yourself and express your oneness in the faith of

Jesus' true presence in and with the forms of bread and wine for us to eat and drink, for the forgiveness of all sins then again, come and eat and drink and receive the Sabbath Blessing the Lord of the Sabbath gives!

The Real divine question to be asked is simple: Is Jesus the Lord of You? Is He the only Lord and Master of your life? If you are still searching the world to dictate how you can enjoy life rather than letting God lead your life in His Glory, then He is not Lord of you, but the world is. If you are trying to be a resort Christian, trying to be All-Inclusive with your worship because it's all the same God, just with different names, then He is not the Lord of you, but your reason and strength ó what Lutherans call your very own flesh ó is your lord. If you trust your baptism to be the gift of the Holy Ghost, that makes you the child of God He makes you to be, and you look to none other than Christ to worship and praise, then He is the Lord of the Sabbath, and the Lord of You.

This is the comfort we have in Christ Jesus as Lord, He is in control and we like it. We want Him to be the salvation we have from sins and not have to earn our own station before almighty Father. We want to praise Him with songs, hymns, and spiritual songs that give Him all the glory and honor and power and Might for He is our God and we are His servants made to do the good He has called us to do now. We need Him to guide and rule us for if left on our own we will burden one another as the Pharisees do, and that benefits no one. He is the Lord of the Sabbath and He gives us a sabbath rest. Sabbath was made for man to enjoy and praise the One True God. May we help others find this same comfort in their worship as only the Holy Ghost can bring forth. 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**