

PROPER 5 - 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

06/10/18

*Mount Calvary, West View*

**GENESIS 3: 8-15, II CORINTHIANS 4: 13-5: 1, MARK 3:20-35**

**HYMNS: GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY LSB #850,**

**IN ADAM WE HAVE ALL BEEN ONE LSB #569,**

**JESUS CHRIST, MY SURE DEFENSE LSB #741,**

**RISE! TO ARMS! WITH PRAYER EMPLOY YOU LSB #668**

Theme: The Unforgiveable Sin

**+ 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:

*“Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man,  
and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes  
against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an  
eternal sin”*

Permit me a quote, from the venerable Saint Augustine:

*“God wants to exercise us with the difficulty of the question concerning [the  
unforgiveable] sin, because in all of Holy Scriptures there is perhaps found no  
question greater or more difficult”*

Apparently, Saint Augustine sees this sin as a difficult item to deal with ó and in a

way he is correct. This is one of those sins we hate to talk about, and we hate to deal with it. The unforgiveable sin is a difficult sin to identify, in fact, Luther flat out cautions any attempt to try to pin it on anybody. His words: *“Do not rashly charge anyone with this sin. There are poor, burdened consciences which the devil is driving to despair by causing them to think they have committed the unpardonable sin.”* After all, who can delve into the heart of man and tell that this is happening, except God Himself? Who among us sees the inner man and makes the revelation that said sinner has hardened their heart? We have been taught that the unforgiveable sin is the sin in which the sinner has not repented for. The classic argument, “If a person commits a sin then dies, like yelling forbidden words as they careen off the road due to their reckless driving, flying over the embankment and die upon impact with the moving freight train below, have they committed the unforgiveable sin since they were impenitent? After all, they never asked for forgiveness!” The thing is, I cannot delve into the mind of God as to how He will ultimately handle such things, although I can personally say that the believer is in a state of grace, so the grace of God is always a better way to lean. As for the unbeliever, they are not in a state of grace, and therefore are condemned already ó hence the UNFORGIVEABLE part of the sin.

The text is quite telling concerning this dichotomy. It opens with the revelation that the family of Jesus is saying that He is, (how shall we put this lightly?) a few Hymns shy of a Hymnal? A few casseroles short of a potluck? A few answers short of a

Catechetical Examination? However you want to put it, they were calling Him crazy ó out of His mind! Now as a never-ending exercise to follow the eighth commandment, I ask myself, is it possible that they were doing this to try and break up the crowd so that Jesus could get some needed rest and refreshment? But then I said, òNo matter how you slice it, it's still baloney. Calling Jesus crazy only hampers the dissemination of the Gospel, so it still must be stopped.ö

Then it occurred to me, how has this changed at all today? Many today call us out of our minds because we stand on God's Word. We guide our children with the wisdom of not living together before marriage, and we are called òArchaic.ö We properly advise, òDo not come to the supper until you have been properly examined,ö and we are called òLegalisticö. We say that hardened sinners can be saved by repenting of their sins, and we are called, òtoo lenient.ö Jesus ended our text with the revelation that the family of believers that trust in Him and His Word are His brothers and sisters and mothers. Is this not the point? All who believe and trust in the Word of God, the work of the Holy Ghost in this world through the Word and Sacrament ministry, is this not the believer that is saved? And if the believer believes in the Work of the Holy Ghost and believes that they confess their sins they receive absolution, is this not a brother in Christ Jesus, who today will be with Him in paradise? We all like Adam have been one huge rebellious man. We all have fled that evening voice that sought us as we ran. We fled God, and in losing God, we lost our brother too. Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother

slew. Today we call it "Throwing under the bus" but as our Old Testament lessons remind us, the blame game has been going on since day 8. No one wants to believe they are the reason for their sins. They blame others: the devil, the medications, the mental illness, God Himself. Yet we must admit before we can even confess our sins that these are OUR sins, and our most grievous fault. This is the horrible state we are in due to our sins, and yet, even the ultimate sin of blaspheming God can be forgiven. It may be only number two on the commandment big board, and all those commandments are not forgotten; we break them continuously, and yet, there is forgiveness, for the strong love of The Father sought us still and sent His only Son that we might hear The Shepherd's voice and in hearing Him, become one. Hearing the Shepherd's call to repentance through The Sacraments you have your baptism and proper reception of Body and Blood The Spirit moves you to know you are forgiven and a child saved from the terrors of this world to enter the next.

It is true that you yourself can tell if you have broken the unforgivable sin. As we have been taught through the testimonies of the Book of Concord, if you are grieving that you may have committed the unpardonable sin, you haven't for the Word is still doing its work to move you to repentance. It is when you believe that you have no need of Word or Sacrament ministry, for the Word and the Work are of no value to you, and you openly mock the work of God through Word and Sacrament, this is when you can be sure the Unpardonable sin has reared its ugly head. In our text, Jesus identifies the Pharisees as

the ones who have committed such sins for they called the good work of God, converting the sinners, an evil work of Satan. This is the unforgiveable sin, for it forces the sinner to reject the salvation of Christ from the cross, through the work of the Holy Ghost, and rest on his own reason and strength.

I pray that this never happens to you, but that knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise you also with Jesus and bring you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. Give thanks to God for the Salvation by grace alone, and do not fear the foe that may ridicule you for your trust and faith in the cross of Christ Jesus. They can still be saved with the Words of forgiveness reaching them. We cannot look into the heart and know if they are hardened against God or just simply fools who have not listened. So, I encourage you to preach Christ Crucified in all you say and do, forgiving others their faults as Christ has forgiven you. 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**