

REMENESCERI SUNDAY John 3: 1-17 Mt. Calvary, West View / Pentecost, Avella 03/12/17

Theme: Meteorological Lesson

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

Our Text is taken from the Gospel of St. John, the 3<sup>th</sup> chapter:

***The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit***

Every now and then, science is proven by God. I know, we have all kinds of science trying to prove the existence of God, and so much more science trying to deny the existence of any god, yet once in a while we have some scripture that proves science existed before we were able to scientifically prove it. Take the wind for example. We have all kinds of weather balloons trying to gather up the information necessary so that we can predict when the wind is coming, how strong it is coming, the duration of the strong winds, and which direction it is coming from, because those darn nor'easters are just the worst!

And as often as we try to predict the weather, Jesus tells us yet again that we cannot control the winds. "***The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes or where it goes.***" You cannot capture the wind; you cannot control the wind; it goes where it wishes – it sometimes decides to go around and round into a twister and you cannot predict its landing or its rising up; the best you can hope for is to hear its sound – and even then, it is already past. When you hear the sound of the wind, it has already done its duty. It has come or gone and all you see are the effects that it has made.

The Holy Ghost works on the same principle. Many people try to control it, but He just does not work that way. "How can they try to control Him?" you might ask. Have you ever heard someone say that they are "ready" to be baptized? Here they have gone their entire life, living

however they wanted, and then, finally, after much so-called “soul searching,” they have come to their decision for Christ, are now ready to follow Him wherever He goes, and they will now allow the precious waters of baptism to reach their heads/body/whatever. Does the Holy Ghost only work when we say He will? Have we become so righteous that we can finally allow the Holy Ghost to enter in and make us members of the body of Christ? Sounds silly to you and me, yet many have acted as if baptism is their choice and not the act of the Holy Ghost working faith in the believer and driving them to the waters of life.

Here is another example: how about the speaking in tongues? Many a Pentecostal has made the preparations of their body to be the “mouthpiece” of their god, and yet, I see nowhere in the Scriptures that the person must be prepared to be made the vessel for the Lord to speak. Even the heathens had been the mouthpiece of God when He so chose to use them as such, so who are we to think that we can harness the Holy Ghost like some sort of weather anomaly? We might as well be trying to capture a tornado or a hurricane – at least with these you have a chance.

Main Luther was so right in instructing us about all this 500 years ago, in the Small Catechism when he explained, “I [we] believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and keeps me in the One True Faith.” And just so we do not think that this is a Lutheran thing, and does not apply to other Christians, “In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” Ah ha! The whole of Christendom is established by the works of the Holy Ghost and kept this way by His own doing! Yet, maybe we can harness the wind to make others be Christian with us? You know, that we lead others to Christ and thereby are able to make Christians as well and increase the kingdom of God? Certainly God addressed this, for

everyone that is born of the flesh is flesh and everyone born of the spirit is spirit. If you are doing the work, it is earthly, fleshly, sinful work. If God is doing the work, well then, it is perfect work, for the work of the Holy Ghost is that, “In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. And on the Last Day He will raise up me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.” This is most certainly True!

What I am getting at here is that a man is born again of water and spirit not by what he decides to do, or by what another man does, but by the work of the Holy Ghost that moves where and when He wills. We cannot harness and control Him, telling him to save that person or condemn another. Not even Abraham our forefather of the flesh, was able to do any work that made him justified before God, for it was his FAITH that saved him, the promise that rested on GRACE to be guaranteed to all the offspring – that is you. You, who have been faced with your sins this day, as we observe the purple colors, and the veiled cross, to remind us that we are still sinners in need of salvation due to our many sins just in this past week, and still, you rejoice that by faith you are saved, through grace, that it is not of your works, but the gift of God. Your baptism is the born again, in water, fire and spirit, that no man may see its coming or going, but as you live your faith in the forgiveness of the cross of Christ, they can see the effects of this Spirit in you.

Abraham showed the effects of his faith in leaving his home and journeying to a land he had never been to. Thankfully, God does not require this of us, but does place us here in this town to spread what we know to be true to many who are still “waiting for the Lord.” Let them know that God is here in this house, and that they can meet Him face to face, in faith, and receive the very thing we need – the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. It’s not rocket science, but it is a science of faith. 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. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

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