



Peace Lutheran Church of Orofino ID

13946 1st Ave

7:30 am Bible Class, 8:00 am Worship Service

orofino.clclutheran.org

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarkston WA

1107 14th Street

10:00 am Sunday School, 10:15 am Bible Class, 11:00 am Service

www.ClarkstonLutheran.org

Members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC

Organists: Deena Irby, Donna Lowary, Sue Martin

Pastor Dave Naumann 1119 14th Street Clarkston, WA 99403

email: ddnaumann@clclutheran.com

Church: 509 758-8261 Home: 509 295-6109 Cell: 920 266-5384

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2013

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 22 (front of the hymnal p. 127)

The Hymns: 156, 391, 315, 473:1

Prayer: *Blessed Redeemer, grant Your blessing to us during this Lenten season. Let us see the pains of body and agony of soul that were Yours, and help us to realize that our sins were also responsible for them. May we always by faith see You as our Substitute, Who bore the burden of our sin and guilt perfectly, so that we now stand pure and sinless in God's holy eyes. Hear us, for the sake of Your love. Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 156

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation sings:



A - men.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

Pastor Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



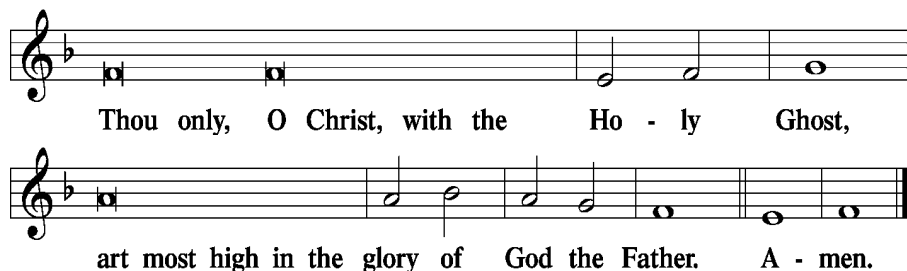
Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

PASTOR The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.



A - men.

THE BIBLE LESSONS

God speaks to us.

The Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1-3, 11-14 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' 12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.'"

PASTOR Here ends the Old Testament Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P: Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies: Teach me to do Your will.

C: He delivers me from my enemies:

P: Yes, You lift me up above those that rise up against me;

C: You have delivered me from the violent man. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; May Israel now say:

C: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me. Hallelujah!



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

PASTOR The New Testament Reading comes from John chapter 11, beginning there in the 47th verse.



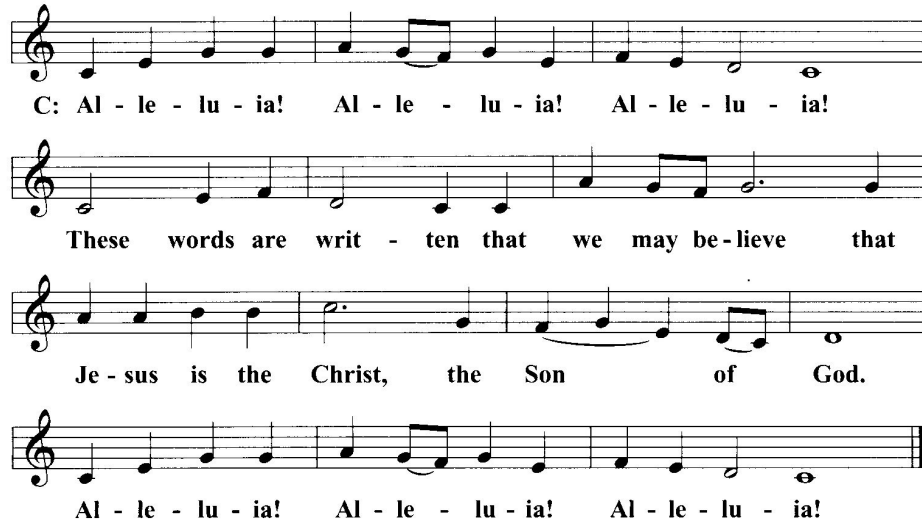
Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The New Testament Reading

John 11:47-53 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." 49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 "nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. 53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

PASTOR: Here ends the New Testament Bible Reading.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE NICENE CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 22)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 391

THE SERMON

Romans 8:11-19 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors; not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Theme: GOD'S FAMILY IS SECURE

- I. We are born into it by the Spirit (11-15a)
- II. We live with our dear Father (15b-16)
- III. We are co-heirs with God's Son (17-19)

THE OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 441:1-2:

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

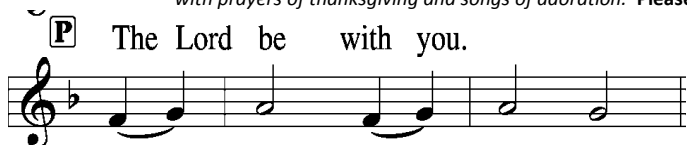
PRAYERS - (Pastor)

Congregation sings Hymn 315

The Communion Liturgy continues with

THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE

Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. Please stand.



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

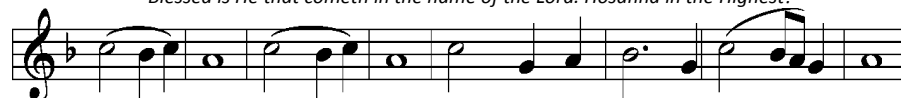


C It is meet and right so to do.

PASTOR: It is truly meet, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" round about His throne and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude who sang, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!"



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASTOR: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time)

PASTOR: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always

A - men.

THE AGNUS DEI

Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to think only of that Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

The Distribution of the Sacrament *(congregation is seated)*

COMMUNION TODAY IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is; God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages listed below. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

1 Corinthians 1:10 "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

1 Corinthians 11:26-30 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep."

SHOULD YOU COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?

*** If you feel your faith is weak, you need the Lord's Supper. In it Jesus gives you his body and blood which were given into death for your sins. He wants to strengthen your faith. So come, eat and drink and listen to the words your pastor says to you in the name of Jesus, and believe them with all your heart.

*** When you know you've sinned and you feel unworthy. You say you aren't worthy because you aren't good enough. No one else is good enough either. But

God doesn't ask whether you are good enough. He only asks, 'Are you sorry for your sins? Do you believe Jesus forgives?' He invites you to come and receive forgiveness through Christ, who shed his blood for you. He makes you sure that forgiveness is yours by giving you Jesus' body and blood to eat and to drink. You believe that, don't you?

*** But if you are refusing to give up a particular sin even though you know that God's word forbids it, you are despising God's Word. You are telling God, 'I don't care what you say. I'll do what I want.' Until you repent of your sin, God warns you against abusing this gift. To come to the Lord's Supper will only add to your sin rather than take it away.

THREE GOOD QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFOREHAND

1. Am I sorry for my sins?
2. Do I believe in Christ for forgiveness?
3. Am I willing, after receiving forgiveness, to amend my sinful life?

MARTIN LUTHER: "He is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, 'Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.'"

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

PASTOR: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

PASTOR: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

PASTOR:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Closing Hymn 473:1

*** SILENT PRAYER ***

Announcements

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

WELCOME EVERYONE! Especially any visitors who may be with us. We are glad you are here and invite you to join us again soon in our worship of the One true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. If you'd like to become a member, we offer a free "Information Course" in which the Pastor will meet with you at your convenience to study and discuss the Bible's teachings. Just ask!

WOMAN'S GATHERING AT ST. JOHN'S Saturday April 6, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Theme: "JOURNEY with the LORD". Seven sister CLC congregations have been invited. Bible Study is planned, also craft, health, and music sessions are planned. Lunch will be served. Please bring your Bible. There is a \$10 registration fee (payable to St. John's Ladies Aid). More information is on the bulletin board.

6th MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK Lenten theme: "King of Kings." 6:30 pm Wednesday at St. John's; 6:30 pm Thursday at Peace in Orofino. I encourage all to take advantage of these extra blessings from your LORD! Soup Supper at St. John's at 5:30. Supper at Peace at 5:30.

FUNERAL IN OROFINO A memorial Service of Norma Fine (sister of Diane Tuning) is 11:00 am Saturday, March 23, at the rented facility of Orofino Community Church (14233 Hwy 12) with a potluck to follow. All are invited.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL FUND Contributions to this recently established fund will go toward the opening of a Christian Day School in Clarkston. Just mark your envelope or check memo line as "School Fund". May the LORD bless our efforts!

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE If you'd like to read them ahead of time at home, the Bible readings for next week, Palm Sunday, are: Isaiah 50:4-9; Matthew 27:11-54; and Philipians 2:5-11 (the sermon).

CLC NEWS <> Holy Cross Lutheran School of Phoenix, AZ, has called Teacher Quinn Sprengeler of Redemption Lutheran School, Lynnwood, WA. <> Luther Memorial School of Fond du Lac, WI, has called Teacher Jennifer Ohlmann of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran School, Middleton WI, to teach Kindergarten and lower grades. <> Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN, has called Michael Naumann, member of Bethel Lutheran, Morris MN, and presently teaching in the Kingdom of Bahrain, to serve as a teacher—primary field, Social Studies—in its High School. <> From St. John's Lutheran, Okabena MN: Teacher Erin Libby has tendered her resignation, effective at the end of this school year. The congregation has called member Lana Strike to serve as Lower Grade Teacher. <> The Rev. Joel Fleischer of Marquette, MI, has the call to be the foreign missionary to India and E. Africa.

THE NEW POPE The recent election in the Roman Catholic Church reminds us Bible believing Lutherans that for the last 500 years we have been pointing to the Office of Papacy for what it really is: The Antichrist! 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 gives us a detailed account of the signs of The Antichrist. He comes from within Christianity. He sits in God's church claiming God's authority, claiming to be God. He deceives with great power, false signs and wonders, and with wicked deception. They refuse to love the truth and be saved. These biblical identifying signs are all clearly seen in the Roman Catholic Office of the Papacy. If you'd like to find out more, ask Pastor for a copy of one of our Lutheran Symbols of Faith entitled "Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope" or look it up online. You might also read the article in the bulletin today by the Rev. Daniel Fleischer. May the LORD give you opportunity to help people escape Roman Catholic tyranny.

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

"But since the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. " Romans 8:11



Saint Patrick

Everyone ought to know some facts about Patrick -- not just the Irish. For example, you would be surprised to learn that the Celtic Church in which Patrick served was more Lutheran than Roman Catholic. And this too, that "saint" simply meant "missionary"—the Celts did not canonize their members or clergy.

There's more. Earlier in this century much was brought to light

about these early Christians. They were an intensely biblical, mission-minded, out-reaching church which flourished in the British Isles and beyond. For almost 500 years (from AD 420 to 890) they reached out to parts of present-day France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy.

Celtic Christianity began and continued among those who had little sympathy for developments in the Latin (or "Italian" church). St. Patrick was active by AD 430. He was never at any time a communicant member of the Latin church.

Saint Patrick's Day (March 17) will not fall on a Sunday again until the year 2013. This will give pastors time to think about including him in a sermon. And perhaps to learn to sing "Saint Patrick's Breastplate" (hymn): "I Bind Unto Myself Today The Strong Name Of The Trinity!" Let paraments and vestments be green! Put on a shamrock! This man deserves mention with honor in Lutheran parishes.

Why? Well, for one thing, because his (Celtic) liturgy was more like ours than Rome's--with vernacular Invocation, Glorias, Creeds (including Athanasian), Offertory, Sanctus, Lord's Prayer, Words of Institution, Agnus Dei, and Close Communion! Yes, even among the several Celtic groups there were doctrinal disagreements; participation in the Holy Supper was closely and jealously guarded.

Why else? Because they were a maverick group, intensely independent, bound to Justification by Faith and the Great Commission, to promotion of full biblical doctrine, with the Cross of Christ at the center. They had their own Easter date. There was no tonsure, no ruling territorial bishop, no political goal, no papal jurisdiction, no veneration of Mary, no intercession of the so-called saints, no canonization, no purgatory, no works supplemental to

Absolution (so as to make it more "valid"), no transubstantiation, no withholding of the cup, no traditions held alongside of Scripture.

Why else? Their missionary vigor was unparalleled. They had a chain of schools called "muinntirs" which brought forth missionaries, not pastors. These men were largely "awakeners," going out in pairs on long preaching trips.

Sure, it is a crying shame how things have degenerated, how history gets twisted, even among Christians. Some tie "the luck of the Irish" to a four-leaf clover. Patrick knew nothing of this. He used the three-leaf plant as a simple though feeble reminder of the Trinity. And the snakes? For Patrick it meant chasing the Devil and his henchmen out of whatever country, sending them back to Hell where they belong.

Patrick and the Celts would have liked confessional Lutheranism. Today they would wake us up--to history, to mission endeavor, to doctrinal clarity, to the proper application of Law and Gospel, to getting men ready to meet their God and Savior.

Excerpted from an article written by Pastor Warren Fanning published in the *Lutheran Spokesman*, March 1999. Additional archived *Lutheran Spokesman* articles as well as the current issue may be found online at lutheranspokesman.org

BLACK SMOKE/WHITE SMOKE or "DON'T LET THE SMOKE GET IN YOUR EYES:"

In the last weeks the electronic media as well as the press have been filled with a review of the recently resigned pope and his reign, as well as with the election of a new pope. In the course of it all we have had a primer on Catholic theology and the idolic grandeur of the Vatican.

There is no question but that Popes are a presence on the world stage. They are charismatic, some more so than others, and are highly thought of by most world leaders, as well as beloved by Catholics around the world. They are consummate politicians as head of the Vatican state. US politicians have felt the compulsion to inquire of them as a head of state. They are looked on—sometimes with dismay—as men of principle who do not bend the principles of the Roman church. By the power of personal charisma, they are respected even by those within the Catholic Church who disagree with them. But it is that very charisma and personal presence that beclouds the substance of what Catholicism really is. As men of principle, they uphold the core doctrines of the Roman church, doctrines, which in fact undermine the doctrine of justification, and salvation by grace through faith

in Christ alone. Whatever alleged modernization occurs in the Roman Church, the core principles cannot change or the Catholic Church will not be the Catholic Church. The new pope will still be Catholic, and the papacy will not change.

1. The papal bull (edict) "Unam Sanctam" of 1302 says, "We are obliged by the faith to believe and hold- and we do firmly believe and sincerely confess- that there is one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and that outside this Church there is neither salvation or remission of sins..."
2. "Furthermore we declare, state, define and pronounce that it is altogether necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman pontiff."
3. Both swords [the spiritual sword and the temporal] are in the power of the Church. "The one sword, then, should be under the other, and temporal authority subject to spiritual."
4. The Council of Trent Session VI (1547) anathematizes (condemns) the heart of the Gospel when it anathematizes the teaching "That the impious is justified by faith alone- if this means that nothing else is required by way of cooperation in the acquisition of justification..."
5. The doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary was adopted in 1854. In 1870 the doctrine of papal infallibility was adopted. It reads, "We... teach and define as a dogma divinely revealed: That the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks *ex cathedra* (that is when fulfilling the office as Pastor and Teacher...) through the divine assistance promised him in blessed Peter is endowed with that infallibility..." [According to Catholic doctrine, this means that when the pope speaks in his official duty as pastor and teacher he cannot err.] The pope must hold on to this false doctrine, for if papal infallibility falls so would Roman Catholicism. In 1950 the pope declared as a matter of faith to be believed that Mary was assumed bodily into heaven without dying. None of the above is based on a shred of Scripture evidence, but was declared by tradition and papal authority!

The public press has dutifully reported that the past popes as well as the newly elected are successors of Peter, the disciple of the Lord, who allegedly held the papal office (35 years) for the longest period of time. Scripture rejects the Roman church's declaration that Peter was the first pope. It is based on a purposefully deceitful interpretation of Matthew 16.

Indulgences, rejected at the time of the Reformation, the intercession of Mary and the saints, purgatory, the adoration of relics, the superstition so often apparent, are still staples of Rome, as is the idea of salvation by faith plus works! A social awareness and resistance to abortion, homosexuality, same-sex marriage,

and so on does not change the fact that when the smoke clears Rome is still Rome. The pope dies (or resigns) and another is elected; but the papacy as the expression of Anti-Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:1-11) marches on. That one "sitting in the temple of God," who "opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God," shall continue on until the Lord himself shall bring down the papacy "with the brightness of His coming."

To be warned is to be forewarned, lest we fall for the deceptiveness of the papacy, and be overwhelmed by the history and tradition and pageantry of papal elections and funerals. Except for those who have bought the lie, one cannot help but be nauseated by the idolatrous adoration of the popes by the "faithful."

It is the intent and the purpose of the Roman Church to gather the "separated brethren" under the tent of Rome. The pope is called the head of the Christian Church. He is not. He is the head of the Roman church. The Roman church has a purpose and pursues it. Rome has not changed over the centuries. The fact that so many, including many Lutherans, are today inclined toward Rome says that they have bought the lie. May we say that the smoke has gotten into their eyes? So then, if there is a cozying up to Rome by Protestantism (Lutherans), who changed? If it was not Rome...

When the smoke, black or white, clears those who accept the Scriptures as the sole authority for faith and the way of salvation still recognize that there is only one Church, the Holy Christian Church; one Savior, Jesus Christ, one Head and Master of the Church, Jesus Christ; one holy Father, our Father in heaven, and one Shepherd Who says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish...(John 10 27, 28).

The hymn, "Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word" (TLH 261), was in 1543 entitled, "A children's hymn, to be sung against the two arch-enemies of Christ and His holy Church, the Pope and the Turk." In German Luther wrote:

Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort
Und steur des Papsts and Turken Mord;
Die Jesum Christum, deinen Sohn,
Wollen sturzen von deinem Thron!

Trans: Uphold us, Lord, by Your Word
And control(hold in check) the murderous Papists and Turks,
Who would topple Jesus Christ, your Son, From His throne.

Not exactly politically correct!

Written by Retired CLC Pastor Daniel Fleischer

Old Testament Reading for the 5th Sunday in Lent

The bones in these verses represent Spiritual lifelessness that each of us once were. But God sends His Holy Spirit through His Word to give us genuine Life. That's real security for now and eternity. We read...
Ezekiel 37:1-3, 11-14 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' 12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD."

THE GRADUAL

P: Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies: Teach me to do Your will.

C: He delivers me from my enemies:

P: Yes, You lift me up above those that rise up against me;

C: You have delivered me from the violent man.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; May Israel now say:

C: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me. Hallelujah!

New Testament Reading:

Caiaphas the High Priest was worried about he security of Judah under the rule of Rome. He thought Jesus was nothing more than a political rebel, and that Rome would be pleased with His death. Little did Caiaphas know that Jesus' death would give real security to all people by paying for their sins, taking them out from under the devil's rule, and putting them safely back in God's Family. We read...

John 11:47-53 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation." 49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 "nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish." 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. 53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

PASTOR: Here ends the New Testament Bible Reading.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!