3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

July 7, 2019

The Lutheran Hymnal

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THE CONFESSIONAL READING FROM THE LARGE CATECHISM

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: "YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME."

For even if many of the good things we experience come to us through people, we nevertheless receive them all from God as things that reach us according to His command and ordinance. For our parents and all who have authority over us, indeed all who stand in the relation of neighbor to us, have been commanded to do all manner of good things for us. These things we therefore receive not from them but from God through them. God's creatures are merely the hands, channels, and means through which He bestows all good things. For example, He gives breasts and milk to a mother to offer them to her infant; and He gives grain that no creature could produce independently. Therefore no one should presume either to take or give anything except as commanded by God, recognizing all these things as God's gifts and thanking Him for them, as this commandment requires. Conversely, we are not to disdain this way of getting good things from God through His creatures, nor are we arrogantly to seek other ways and means to obtain them than those He commanded; to do so would be not to receive them from God as His gifts but to look for them in ourselves.

So let each one for himself above all things see to it that he values this commandment far beyond everything else and that he does not toss it to the winds. Question and explore your own heart thoroughly, and you will find out if it embraces God alone or not. Do you have it in your heart to expect nothing but good things from God, especially when you are in trouble and in need? And does your heart in addition give up and forsake everything that is not God? Then you have the one true God. On the other hand, is your heart attached to and does it rely on something else, from which you hope to receive more good and more help than from God? And when things go wrong, do you, instead of fleeing to Him, flee from Him? Then you have another god, a false god.

So that one may see that God does not want this commandment to be thrown to the winds but that He will keep strict watch over it, He has attached to it first a terrible threat and then a beautifully reassuring promise. These also we should thoroughly drill, impressing them upon young people so that they take them to heart and remember them.

Old Testament: Micah 7:18-20 KJV

[18] Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. [19] He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. [20] Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Epistle: 1 Peter 5:6-11 KJV

[6] Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: [7] Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. [8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: [9] Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. [10] But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. [11] To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10 KJV

[1] Then drew near unto him all the publicans for sinners to hear him [2] And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. [3] And he spake this parable unto them, saying, [4] What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? [5] And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. [7] I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. [8] Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? [9] And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. [10] Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.