

**The Second Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Sermon by Pastor Anthony  
E. Schultz**

***Christian Worship: A  
Lutheran Hymnal  
3-Year Lectionary, Year A  
Evangelical Heritage Version  
June 3, 2018***



Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28

<sup>18</sup>Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead. <sup>19</sup>Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the LORD promises to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth. <sup>26</sup>You see, I am placing before you today a blessing and a curse: <sup>27</sup>the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God that I am giving you today, <sup>28</sup>or the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God and you turn away from the path that I am commanding you today by walking after other gods whom you did not know.

Children of our Heavenly Father~precious in His sight for  
Jesus' sake:

I went to the movies the other day. There are a whole series of movies about super heroes! I don't think the word hunger is too strong a word – there is a hunger – a thirst for a super hero! Back in the day there was **Superman!** Faster than a speeding bullet – more powerful than a locomotive – able to leap tall buildings in a single leap. Look up in the sky~it's a bird – it's a plane – no, it's superman! Then there was **Batman** and the Batmobile – where he would throw a grappling hook out the window and go speeding around a corner! They tried to duplicate that on Myth Busters but they couldn't! There is **Spiderman** – with his *spidy*-sense – this premonition that something terrible is about to happen! I know people who really like **Ironman** – Tony Stark – in this red metal suit – with this atomic power thing in the middle of his chest – like his heart that is pure power against evil. There is **Captain America** with his shield – **Thor** with his hammer – the **Hulk** – with green arms and legs and huge feet and fists! There is **Wonder Woman** and many more! One of the latest Super-hero movies made more than \$1 billion faster than any other movie in history! If you have ever seen one of these super hero movies – you know – even if Bill the popcorn guy doesn't remind you – when the credits roll – you stay put! You don't move. Again the other day we sat there – while people everywhere – got up and started to leave! Everywhere people got up and walked out. I never know what to do! Should you stand up and say, “Hey, all you people – wait – it's not over! There is another minute or two or more of movie – right after the credits!” But I don't and they leave. When there were literally 5 of us left – the last credit rolled – that little announcement that no animals

were hurt making this movie – and there it was! More movie – spoiler alert – people in the streets! And more plot – more action – more things to see and to understand! Now in the eternal scheme of things – it doesn't really matter if you bought a ticket and a little plastic bucket to take back each time – for what amounts to ½ price popcorn and you missed the last 2 minutes of the movie. But there are literally eternal consequences if week after week – we don't hear God's Word – don't read our Bible – don't read devotions – try our best to ignore God and His Word! There are consequences if we starve our faith and spiritually starve our soul. Today God's Word reminds us once again:

### **The LORD Holds On To Us!**

**I. He holds on to parents**

**II. He holds on to children!**

Context! We need to go back to Numbers chapter 13. The Children of Israel – had at last arrived by the edge of the promised land. The LORD told Moses to choose spies and Moses did – one from each of the 12 tribes to spy out the land. The LORD said, **“Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country and see what the land is and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes. Nu. 13:17b-20 They came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down**

**from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs.** V.23 How long did they spy out the land? You can guess! Yes, 40 days! What did the spies report? We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong and the cities are fortified and very large. The people who live here are giants – and we are but grasshoppers before them. Caleb and Joshua said, **“Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.”** But all the other spies said we are grasshoppers and they will squash us! The cowards prevailed. The people were afraid! Nobody remembered the army of the mighty Pharaoh and the waters of the Red Sea? Nobody? Noone?!

The people wept through the night and with the morning light they grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us into this land – to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt? **And they said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”** They were going to stone Joshua and Caleb – when the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel...and the LORD said to Moses, **“How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?”** The LORD tells them back out into the wilderness! Oh, no, they say – we can fight – we have faith and courage – we can conquer the

promised land – just watch. They go into battle and are defeated! What to do? What to do? Do as the LORD says – back out into the wilderness – to wait for those who saw the cloudy fiery pillar and the end of the army of Egypt in the Red Sea and all those miracles to pass away. They – in the LORD’s time – they will go into the Promised Land. God’s Word – God’s will – God’s time! This is always the answer!

Now – this is the second giving of the Law – that is law and Gospel – to a new generation – about to inherit the Promised Land! Moses – inspired by the Holy Spirit said, **18Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead.** The Children of Israel did that – *literally* took straps of leather and wound them around their fingers and wrists and forearms and wrote Scripture on small pieces of parchment – and put the parchment in little boxes – and *literally* tied them to their foreheads. **20Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.** They did that too! The little box fastened to their door frame is called a Mezuzah ! Again, they *literally* did it! They put little boxes of Scripture by their doors and by the gate through their fence! But it seems – they missed the point! God’s Word doesn’t need to be tied to your forehead – doesn’t need to be tied to your fingers and forearms – doesn’t need to be nailed to doorframes nor fence gates! God’s Word needs to be in our ♥s and in our minds – needs to be in our thoughts and translated into actions – hands that reach out always to help and never to hurt. Our words need to build up and heal – never to tear down and harm. We need to have feet that are quick to take us where we can help and protect.

Door frames and fence gates – when we are at home – and when we are at work will be colored by our faith in Jesus! Again God’s Word says, **“Husbands – love your wife like Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her!”** We read those words at every wedding. We need to remember those words all the time – helping our wife in every way possible. It means being the spiritual head of the house. Leading by example – with home devotions – with reading God’s Word – with faithful attendance at Bible Class. Talking about applications of Scripture to current events and to daily life. Talking about Sunday School and Christ-light and the Scripture readings and the sermon in Church. It means by the power of the Holy Spirit – through the means of grace – the Gospel in Scripture and Lord’s Supper to bear sweet fruit of the Spirit – **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** To be very careful – again by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel to not curse, swear, lie or deceive. To not abuse alcohol or drugs. To watch for opportunities to love your neighbor – your closest neighbors – your spouse and your children and your in-laws. And when there is something painfully difficult in life – to **put on the full armor of God** – to **fight the good fight** – **to run the race** – with your eyes and your heart **fixed on the prize** – the salvation of your soul!

I love to watch a good movie. A good movie – is escape from this world infected by sin and pain and grief and death! A good movie and you are on the bridge of the Enterprise – with Captain Kirk and Spock and Scottie warp factor 7 and the transporter and Klingons! A good movie – and you are watching Oscar Schindler

and people with golden orange star of David cloth pins that say *Jude* and you are trying to stop the Holocaust. A good movie – and you are with Private Ryan and my Uncle George and my Uncle Paul on the beaches of Normandy! A good movie – Bob and Stewart and Kevin and all the other Minions! After the movie – the credits roll and the names of literally thousands of people who each played a part in making the movie you just watched. I heard a sermon last Saturday about a man whose son was a very important person in Hollywood. A man whose name was prominent in the credits of many wonderful movies. The problem was – long ago this person loved Jesus with their whole ♥--but as the time came where this man had more and more earthly success – more and more fame and literal fortune – the less time he had for Jesus – until the day came when he would tell you most openly and proudly – he had no need for Jesus any more. No need for Jesus' forgiveness – thus no time or need for Scripture – no time or need for Church. How utterly eternally tragic?! **For what is a person profited if they gain the whole world – yet lose their soul – or what should a person give in exchange for their soul?** It is only by the grace of God that we know the LORD holds us and the LORD holds on to our Children! *Thank you, Jesus!* Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schatz". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.