

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church-WELS
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz
Easter 3 Mother's Day May 8, 2011 1 Peter 1:17-21



1 Peter 1:17-21 (English Standard Version)

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

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

Henry was a Private First Class in the United States Army fighting in Korea on June 12, 1953 – the year after I was born. Henry's platoon seemed to be losing the battle – being overwhelmed. With courage far above and beyond the call of duty – Henry didn't worry about his own safety. He only worried about the safety of the soldiers around him. So Henry counter-attacked. Henry attacked the enemy position – firing his weapon and throwing his hand grenades – in spite of the fact that he was wounded – Henry continue to advance against the enemy – finally he threw himself on a grenade – giving up his life – to save the lives of the soldiers around him. Jesus talked about a love like that! Jesus said, **“Greater love hath no man than this – that he lay down his life for his friends!”** Jesus laid down his life – to save wretched sinners like me and like you! That's why we come to Church – week after week. Because Jesus laid down his life to forgive us! It is in light of Jesus' sacrificial forgiving love that we will pray:

God Bless Our Mom!

- 1. We are ransomed with Jesus' blood**
- 2. Our faith and hope are in Jesus!**

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on is from the first chapter of Simon Peter's letter. We are reading from 1st Peter for 6 Sundays – from the second Sunday *of* Easter until Pentecost! Remember last Sunday – *Confirmation Sunday*? God's Word said, **“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed!”** 1 Peter 1:3f People who actually received Simon Peter's first letter were beginning to suffer actual physical persecution – on account of their faith in the Risen Christ! Imagine what it would be like to be beaten – punched and hit and slapped – your hair pulled – to be hit with baseball bats – cut with knives – your clothes torn – filth thrown at you. Imagine having your car scratched with car keys – rocks and stones thrown

through your windows – your tires slashed – your home burned down! You get fired from your job – your children harassed at school – for no other reason than this – you love Jesus. Imagine our cars in the church parking lot being smashed – your life threatened when you leave Bible Class and Sunday School this morning. If you were in actual physical danger – for coming to Church – you would have to very quickly decide – just what kind of disciple you are going to be!

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile... We are answerable to our Heavenly Father – the One who designed and engineered and built us! Remember the fundamentals – which today are so often forgotten – or arrogantly contradicted and blasphemously dismissed! God made Adam out of the soil, the earth, the clay of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God said – it is not good for the man to be alone – so he caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and from one of Adam's ribs – God made Eve and brought her to the man. Adam said – **this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman for she was taken out of man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. Therefore they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together – let man not separate!** That's God's plan – from the very beginning! One man – one woman – joined in marriage – become one flesh – have "hugs and kisses" and sometimes by the grace of God – you get a baby in your tummy! This is God's plan – one man – one woman – married – hugs and kisses – maybe babies! When we have "hugs and kisses" before – or outside of marriage – that's a sin. It doesn't matter what this world says. God's Word defines and defends and blesses marriage. What God puts together – people dasn't take apart! God's gift of marriage – and there is nothing wrong with not being married – remaining single like the Apostle Paul – to dedicate each moment to sharing the Gospel. But God's gift of marriage is for our blessing and our benefit!

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,... By the grace of God – you and I know all that Jesus did to forgive us. Most of us – by the grace of God – have had Jesus in our hearts – from infancy – from our baptism when we were only a day or two – or a week or two old. We have grown up in families where we learned about Jesus all the time. We were **ransomed from the futile ways inherited from our forefathers!** Just think about it. If you don't know Jesus what is the point? Everyone has a conscience – that little voice that is part of the natural knowledge of God. That little voice that tells you – this was nice – and more often than that – this was naughty! Shame on you! I can't believe you did that! Shame on you! What do you do with that shame? In Peru – some 500 years ago – practically the time of Martin Luther – Peruvians practiced human sacrifice. Pretty girls were drugged – murdered and their bodies mummified by mountains. They were buried with little dolls – little icons – brightly dressed. They were buried with rare oyster shells – and little gold and silver llamas – that were supposed to do what? Make is so that your llamas had lots of babies – so you would have fur and leather and milk and meat? People understand they make mistakes and do things that are horribly wrong. By the grace of God we know that the answer is not to throw a pretty girl into a volcano. By the grace of God we know that the answer is Jesus who bought us back – by his death on the cross!

We are redeemed: **not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.** We live in a world

where everything is perishable! Everything wears out. Everything falls apart! We make things that are called durable goods! That's things that are supposed to be durable – supposed to last, right? How durable? 5 years! That's it! Silver and gold? If you read the Synod e-devotion – it said the other day – if you took all the gold that this world has ever found – ever used – it would all easily fit within the base lines of a baseball diamond! All the gold in the whole wide world – in the history of people – inside the baselines! That's not much! But as precious as that is – it isn't enough to ransom one single soul – much less the souls of the whole wide world! Silver? They say almost all the silver in the world has been used up by industry as they show circuit boards – with lots and lots and lots of little silver squares for making contact. We are running out and the price is going to go up – they say! But again – you can't ransom a single immortal soul with all the silver in the world! Only Jesus could buy us back with his flawless life and his tortured death. And that's exactly what Jesus did. *He redeemed us – that we might be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness – even as he is risen from the dead and lives and reigns through all eternity! This is most certainly true!*

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. How far back in time can you remember? Do you remember the War in Viet Nam? Do you remember watching the Nightly News with Walter Cronkite – always ending with the words, “And that's the way it is!” Do you remember the Korean War? Or do you just remember watching lots of episodes of M*A*S*H? Do you remember World War II? My father does? My Uncle Paul did. I remember my Uncle Paul picking shrapnel out of his forearm – defensive wounds from the war. My Uncle George was at Normandy. But most of my Uncles are gone to Heaven. Do you remember World War I? Alfred – a little man who was my member at Trinity in Dundee – over 20 years ago. He used to talk about eating his rations from a metal tray – and giving most – more than half of his food to little German orphans who would stand by the barrels – where soldiers would scrape their plates – hoping for the crumbs from the table! I buried him a long time ago! Do you remember the Civil War? It's the 150 year anniversary of that! There is a movie about John Wilkes Booth and there will be more – about the Civil War. That was a very long time ago. Before the foundation of the world – the Son of God existed! Before God made this planet and filled it up with so much stuff – the Son of God existed! That would be good to remember – when we are tempted as was not always so patient Job – to question God! **Job 38 *The LORD Speaks* ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ² “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – ⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? ⁸ “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, ¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, ¹¹ when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?** The LORD reminded Job and us – how small is our understanding of almost everything – including and especially understanding all there is to know about God! We need to redouble our efforts to read and study and think about and talk about God's Word! We need to grow in faith – with a child like confidence that even before he made this world and its people – the LORD planned to send His Son to rescue us from all our sins!

¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. Today – all across America people will celebrate Mother’s Day. There are I think – more phone calls today than any other day – all year! People call their mom. They buy them roses – all kinds of flowers and plants and chocolates and jewelry. They send them the mushiest cards! They take them out to eat! All this is more than wonderful. But you know what moms really need and want? Love and respect all year long! Not just one day of telling them how much we love them. They need to see that love in the most fundamental ways for Jesus’ sake! That would be like at supper time! When moms say, “Supper is ready!” You show love for Jesus and your mom by hurrying to wash up and coming to the table. Not saying, “In a minutes!” Like what you are doing is more important! “In a minute”, wouldn’t be so bad if it were anywhere near a minute – but how often isn’t it closer to 4 or 5 – and then – did you wash up? No... That’s another delay. Show love and respect for Jesus and your mom by not complaining about what’s for supper. Saying things like, “I hate...followed by the name of the vegetable mom made. When you tell your mom, “I hate...broccoli or Brussels sprouts or beans or peas or spinach or parsnips or turnips or rutabagas...you are really telling Jesus – the inventor of all these vegetables that you hate what he made! Now – maybe you don’t enjoy some vegetables. It might be permissible to say, “I don’t enjoy this vegetable or this isn’t my favorite...” And yet – if that’s the vegetable your mom made – it would show love and respect for Jesus and her – by eating at least a little bit! When it’s time to go to bed – to go to bed – brushing your teeth and saying your prayers and telling your mom you love her. Show love and respect for your mom by putting your toys away and your dirty laundry in the hamper or down the laundry chute! Doing the chores that you are assigned the first time you are asked – or without even being asked! Wouldn’t that be a blessing? This Mother’s Day we pray – God bless our Mom. God bless our mom because we are redeemed children of God – by grace through faith for Jesus’ sake. Amen!

To God alone all glory!

Rev. Anthony L. Schultz