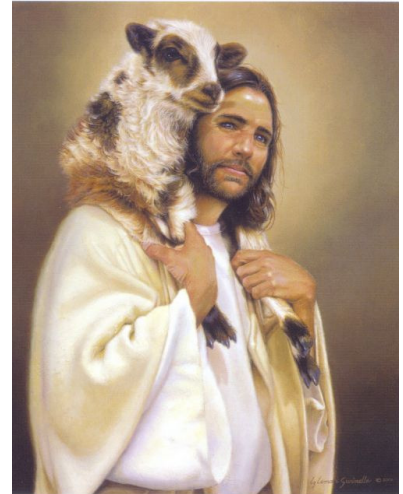


St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church WELS
Watertown, WI
Sermon by Pastor A. Schultz
June 2, 2013 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 150 NASB



Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. ² Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. ³ Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. ⁴ Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. ⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

People of God rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

A man named Miki – M-i-k-i is in the world of chefs--a very famous chef. He is so famous – apparently – that he has cooked for Mikhail Gorbachev – the guy who used to rule over the Soviet Union – when there still was a Union. Miki cooked for Phil Collins – the rock’n roller. He’s cooked for Naomi Campbell the very beautiful model and for Denzel Washington – the movie star! Miki was born in Tokyo and is famous for his *Japanese – Italian* fusion cuisine. I don’t know. Maybe Miki was having an off night – when he made some fried noodles and beef. Maybe it just wasn’t what his customers were expecting – but two of Miki’s customers said they didn’t like it – and were not going to pay for it. And they tried to walk out! The total bill? \$25! Well they were determined not to pay – and Miki was even more determined that they were going to pay. No free supper at his restaurant. Miki followed these two guys outside – took hold of them and said, “No skipping out on me!” That’s when it really got ugly. The two customers pounded on Miki – who was 4 years younger than I am. They didn’t know right away if the beating was so severe – or if Miki already had a severe medical problem – so this was just the straw that broke the camel’s back – but he got a brain bleed and died! He died in a dispute over \$25/worth of fried noodles and beef! How dumb is that?! This is the kind of mixed up – upside down and inside out world we live in. How different this world will be – if we would love one another. How different this world will be – when we wake up and go to sleep conscious of the crucified, risen and ascended Christ. How different this world must be – when we love and forgive one another. These next 25 Sundays after Pentecost – we will talk about putting our faith in Jesus into concrete practice. Today God’s Word is exceedingly clear and simple:

Praise the LORD!

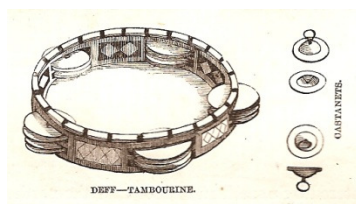
- 1. Praise the LORD *for* everything**
- 2. Praise the LORD *with* everything!**

Praise the LORD! This is a theme that occurs again and again in the Psalms. Psalm 103 says, **¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.** Sometimes we have so many blessings we take them entirely for granted. Everyone should spend a month in a 3rd world – a developing nation.

Spend more than a 3 day weekend in a place – not with the fruity drinks with the little umbrellas – but spend a month in a place where the only clothes people own are the clothes on their back. Spend time with Haitian orphans who stand in line each day while an older child reaches into a laundry basket – to pick out a little shirt for a dress or a pair of shorts that look about your size for you to wear today. Spend a month with people who don't have a walk in closet – don't have a closet – don't own a hanger – a plastic Walmart hanger – because they don't own anything to put on it. Spend a month with people who wake up in the morning and wonder where am I going to find something/anything to eat! The fact is sometimes we aren't very good at being thankful at all. Think about it. When we are really little people give us "things and stuff" and our mom or dad says, "What do you say?" We think about it – and then remember – "Oh, yeah, I'm supposed to say, "Thank you!" And then we get to be teenagers – and the teacher brings donuts and bottles of fruit juice and we say, "Can I have a second donut?" And then the bell rings and everybody grabs their back-pack and scuffs off to their next class. And maybe – just maybe – one young person thinks to say "Thank you!" One person out of 29 – and then a second and third and fourth – and that's it! It's ok – because the teacher who brought the donuts really brought them for Jesus – but think about it! **Praise the LORD –³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your disease...heals all your diseases?** Wait a minute. I know lots of people who got very sick. They didn't get better. They died! But stop and think about it. They didn't just get better. Jesus made them *perfect*. Jesus called them home to heaven where they were better than new – flawless-whole – not just in a better place. But safe by Jesus where there is no more death or mourning or crying or pain. Safe in Heaven where Jesus has made everything new! Praise the LORD, **⁴who redeems your life from the pit** (*the pit that is a pot-hole a place to stumble and fall into sin – the pit that is 6 feet deep – the grave – and the greatest pit of all – the pit of hell where people suffer forever in unspeakable agony!*) **and crowns you with love and compassion,** **⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.** **⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.** **⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:** **⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.** **⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;** **¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.** **¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;** **¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.** Psalm 103:1-12

Praise the LORD! Again and again the last 50 Psalms talk about **praise the LORD** – thank the LORD – give glory to the LORD for his countless acts of grace and goodness! **Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary;** This is God's sanctuary – Jesus' Father's House of Prayer. On the Sabbath – where was Jesus? In the Synagogue – the Bible School – the place where the Rabbi – the teacher read and explained and applied and often debated--God's Word! This is where God's people will want to be – to meet with the LORD – every Sunday – even through the summer – especially through the summer! When we come to Church for public worship we have a plan. We sing praises. Think about it. We sing hymns from the hymnal. We sing songs from the supplement – In Christ Alone – The Lamb – Jerusalem the Golden with the new melody we hear again and again on *The WELS Connection*. Children sing for Jesus in the sanctuary. They sing on Christmas Eve – on Palm Sunday – literally waving Palm Branches. They sing on Easter morning because we worship the Risen Christ! They sing on Ascension and they sing on Confirmation and Pentecost and Reformation and Thanksgiving! They sing all the time. We confess our sins and hear absolution – forgiveness by grace through faith for Jesus' sake. We hear God's Word read. We sing Psalms. We hear sermons. We bring **thankofferings**.

³ Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. ⁴ Praise Him with timbrel and dancing... There was an auction the other day on E-Bay. A man named Ari was selling his portion—his place in Heaven! The bidding began at 99¢ and within a few hours it was up to \$100,000! Then E-bay stopped the auction. E-bay apparently has a rule that things you sell must be “tangible”—you can only sell “things and stuff” that you can pack in a box and move from place to place?! Ari used to be a member of the Orthodox Jewish Community—was brought up in that religion but has since left it. But he believes he’s accumulated enough good deeds to have a good spot in Heaven. His listing noted that while “I’ve done my fair share of sins...I have a decent amount of unassailable good deeds under my belt as well.” This is again—the almost hard-wired way of thinking—that if your good deeds out-weigh your bad and hurtful deeds—then when you die—you go to a place of joy and happiness. If—you die in the midst of something terrible—you die when your bad behavior outweighs your good behavior—then and only then—do you go to a place of sadness and suffering. So—you need to volunteer at soup kitchens—feeding the homeless. You need to be the person to go by the street drains that are covered with twigs and leaves and clean them out. Be the person on your block to shovel the snow off the fire hydrants. You need to be a regular Mother Theresa—sending \$19 a month to Wounded Warrior Project and money to the victims of Hurricane Sandy and the Oklahoma tornado fund. You need to recycle like a maniac and clip those little plastic 6-pack holders—so no duck or goose gets tangled in one. You have to do more nice stuff than your brothers and sisters and in-laws—and then if there is a God—he’s got to see that you are above average—better than most! It sounds good. *It’s just not Scriptural—just not true.* We are saved by grace through faith. It’s a gift of God—not by works so no one can boast. That’s such good news you don’t want to miss a Sunday hearing it. News so good that it makes your feet want to move in joy and anticipation!



³ Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. ⁴ Praise Him with timbrel... **Timbrel** — the tambourine — the Hebrew tof! It’s percussion — keeping the beat. You can pound it with your hand — or shake it — and pound it on your thigh. You can’t play the timbrel and at the same time be sad. You can’t. Have you seen people play the timbrel in Church? They do in

Lima in Peru — in the inpatient drug rehab. It might be difficult for us to think about a place where you can score cocaine for cheaper than buying a Mt. Dew! A place where you can get your first sample for free — knowing that it only takes one time to get you hooked. And once hooked — addicted — what would you be willing to do to get some more? Debase yourself and degrade yourself and humiliate yourself in unspeakable ways? When people who have abused drugs to the point where they literally wake up in the gutter — literally filthy — in despair. And they hear the Gospel most of us have known our whole life — there is a joy and a peace and a hope in their hearts that words cannot explain! Peace and rest for Jesus’ sake!

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. We went to Church at St. Jacobi in Greenfield for the 10:45 service — Miss Krowas’ retirement — a service of thanksgiving to Jesus! After Church we were shaking hands and meeting lots of people when a lady — with her husband and two children came out of church and said, “Do you know who I am?” In situations like that I usually say, “I probably should — but I’m afraid I don’t!” She said her name was Stacy Lee! Stacy Lee! I first met her almost 36 years ago — on July 17, 1977 when she was one week old. I was a Middler at the Seminary. We met at Jordan Ev. Lutheran Church in West

Allis! Stacy Lee was the first baby I ever baptized in my whole life! Last Sunday was like a little sneak preview of Heaven! Here was someone with Jesus' love in her heart – that I had not seen for years and years – and here we were – together in Jesus' Father's House of Prayer – giving thanks to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What could be sweeter than that? When we come Home to Heaven we will meet all kind of people from the past – people that Jesus lived and died and rose again to save. We will be with the Holy Christian Church – the Communion of Saints – the sum total of all believers – saved by grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone! How sweet will that be?

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Give thanks and praise to the Great I AM – the Holy One of Israel. There was a little baby boy born the other day in China. His birth mom didn't want him. During her pregnancy she wore very tight straps around her tummy and wore very baggy clothes so no one would know she had a baby in her tummy. The birth daddy didn't want a baby so he said this baby if there was one – certainly wasn't his problem! This little baby boy was born – then dumped down the filthiest pipe where he got stuck – his arms and his legs and his head badly bruised. People came and rescued him. His mommy pretended he wasn't hers. Then she said she wanted an abortion but just couldn't afford one! So – people all over China are sending this little baby blankets and clothes! What is wrong – when people can pay to have their little babies put to death before they are even born. And failing that – dump them like unspeakable filth? It is in a world like this – that it becomes more and more important for Children of God – to put our faith into practice. We need to live our faith – to be salt and light in this sin spoiled and sin darkened world! When we live our faith and share our faith all glory will belong to the LORD! **Praise the LORD!** Amen!

To God alone all glory!

Pastor Anthony E. Schultz