

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E.
Schultz**

Lenten Vesper #3.

February 28, 2018

Hebrews 10:5-12 EHV.



⁵ Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. ⁶ You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me." ⁸ First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them. ⁹ Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

Christ's Sacrifice Is Sufficient

¹¹ In the one case, every priest stood ministering day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which are never able to remove sin. ¹² In the other case, this priest, after he offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God.

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

Back in the day, by the grace of God-I was in the Northwestern College Male Touring Chorus. Dr. Lehmann was

our director. Every year during the Spring/Easter Break we would go on tour. One year a long tour – next year a short tour. Again, by the grace of God – the 5 years I was at Northwestern we went on 3 long tours – down to Florida and up the East Coast – down to Texas and up the western Coast – out west to Denver and beyond – and lots and lots of Churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota! We would arrive before supper – warm up and practice – have supper and then sing our sacred concert. Between supper and the concert there was often time to kill. A bunch of us used to go out behind the Church where there was often an old cemetery. Usually some of the stones were broken – very heavy pieces scattered or piled up! It was a simple thing for strong young men to pick up the pieces and put them back in their place – like a hundred pounds a piece puzzle! It was a small way to show respect! I read this week about a man named Andrew – down in Land O’Lakes, Florida who started to scrub down tarnished and moss-covered tombstones in cemeteries where veterans are buried! Andrew – 47 years old – says this cleaning and restoring has taken over his life! To rediscover the people who sacrificed themselves – giving their lives for their country – is a powerful act of love and respect. And yet – consider today the ultimate act of self-sacrifice as we see:

Jesus Is Our Self-sacrificing High Priest

- I. Jesus was an acceptable sacrifice
- II. Jesus’ Heavenly Father accepted His sacrifice!

God’s Word today says, **Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire...** At first blush – that doesn’t sound right~ **Sacrifice and offering you did not desire...** If you went to Sunday School –the best

school. If you went to Lutheran Day School--you know that there were all kinds of sacrifices in the Old Testament. Someone has calculated that there were nearly 1,200 sacrifices at the Tabernacle/then Temple every year. When the sun came up a lamb was sacrificed. As the sun began to set a lamb was sacrificed. Every Sabbath – between sundown Friday and sundown Saturday – 2 lambs in the morning and 2 lambs in the evening. The first day of each month was marked by the sacrifice of 2 bulls, a ram, 7 male lambs and a male goat. On festival days special offerings were brought. On Passover 11 more animals died. God's people had to know **the wages of sin is death** and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness!** It had to occur to God's people – that even as they brought massive bulls – quarters of prime rib and the ribeye steaks and briskets – sweet wine and pure oil and fresh baked bread and turtle doves and much *much* more – it would never *ever* be enough! All those animals that died could not – actually – begin to pay for a single sin! It didn't work. God didn't really want lambs and sheep and goats and bread. What He wanted was the innocent blood of His one and only Son Jesus!

⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷Then I said, "Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me." Burnt offerings, sin offerings guilt offerings fellowship offerings – need to be *thank* offerings – brought from repentant, grateful, thankful ♥s! If they are *not* – *don't bring them!* Have you read from the scroll of the prophet Malachi lately? Malachi – the final book of the Old Testament before some 400 years of quiet. Before some 400 years we call the **Intertestamental years!** Do you know about them – the Intertestamental years? Prof. Kiecker will teach one more Sunday about the Acts of the Apostles – and then with Jesus' permission we will hear Pastor Tom Kutz be the Rabbi for 3 Sundays leading

up to Easter – about the Grace of God – from Malachi – until the birth of the Christ-child! And then after Easter Sunday Pastor **Suk!** He will teach us about the Biblical Truths about Creation – over against **Darwin's** ideas about Evolution! These are all powerful opportunities to grow in faith. Powerful opportunities to know what God's Word teaches so that if some relative or friend or co-worker should say something not true about God's Word – you might be **prepared to give an answer** to anyone who ask the reason for the hope you have in Christ! Thank-offerings! Malachi wrote about thank-offerings 400 years before the birth of baby Jesus! Malachi was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write: Malachi 1:7-11 English Standard Version (ESV) **⁷ By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. ⁸When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. ⁹ And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. ¹⁰ Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. ¹¹ For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.**

"In the scroll of the book it is written about me." The Old Testament Prophets wrote again and again about the Passion of the Christ. Remember the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah? Isaiah 53: **Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the**

LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Isaiah 53 NIV

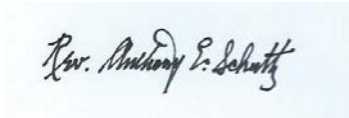
¹⁰ By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ. ¹¹ In the one case, every priest stood ministering day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which are never able to remove sin. ¹² In the other case, this priest, after he offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God. *We have been sanctified once and for all... and again God's Word says, "He offered one sacrifice for sins for all time..."* Every morning – when I open my laptop – and type in my clever password – it opens to a page of news. Every day there is a 3 ½ inch by 6 ½ inch rectangle that changes every 3 Mississippi~s containing 2 or 3 news stories. Most of them are about someone famous or infamous and their latest gross evil! Often they are only accused – not found guilty – yet – is the implication. It is again tempting to think – “I would never do that!” I would never shoot my next door neighbor’s

child – because they walked a path – destroying the grass – taking a **short cut** through my *golf course* landscaping. I would never get drunk and run over a child on the sidewalk because I was driving too fast. I would never have the ♥ of Judas Iscariot and sell out my Savior for **30 silver coins** – then despair of His unconditional forgiveness. I would never deny Jesus like – **Simon Peter** – doubt His Gospel promises like **Thomas** – never commit the horrible and murderous sins of an adulterer like King **David**. I just wouldn't! And yet – 10,000 times we do – in our mind – if not with our actual hands! Jesus died for all the horrible hurtful inexcusable sins we do day after day after day after day! Jesus died one time – for all the kind and thoughtful and helpful and merciful things we leave undone day after day because we are simply not paying attention. Jesus died one time – for all the mistakes of the what – **107 billion people** who have lived on planet earth in the history of the world – 100 billion dead – give or take – 7 ½ billion alive right now. If everyone only did 1 sin in their lifetime that would be billions of sins. Jesus paid for them all – one Friday afternoon when the sun stopped shining!

There are acts of self-sacrifice all around us – all the time. The **NYPD** officer who bought the winter boots for the homeless man who had no shoes. In Illinois people pay the highway toll for the people in the car behind them. People buy a Carmel **Macchiato** for the person in the car behind you at Starbucks. My God-father literally gave the **T-shirt** off his back – to someone who really admired it. I gave a whole fist full of **“Bank” ball point pens** from our kitchen junk drawer to seminary students in Nigeria. Maybe you have gone through your closet and taken a whole bunch of clothes that don't fit or are painfully out of style to *Twice Is Nice* or *Bethesda Thrift*? When I was in Northwestern we used to go down and give a **pint of blood** in exchange for a hot ham sandwich – some poppy~seed pound cake and a paper

cup of 7Up! Parents have worked **2 and 3 jobs** to scrape together enough \$ to send their children to college. And little grandpas with enormous **snow~blowers** have gone down the block blowing snow off the sidewalk and driveway of widows. Sometimes our self-sacrifice is a pleasure. And sometimes our self-sacrifice can even be a life – to throw yourself literally on a **grenade** to save the Marines around you. Jesus' self-sacrifice is of course the ultimate – His innocent life – to wash away all our sins. Jesus paid that price willingly – the flawless sacrifice to redeem us. Again and always we say, "Thank you Jesus!" Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schett", is centered within a light blue rectangular box.