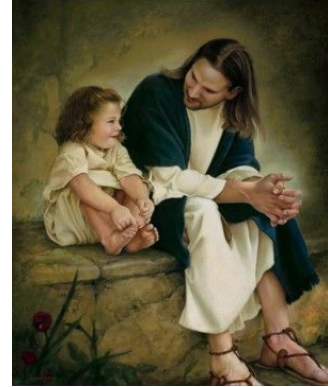


**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church  
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E.  
Schultz**

**June 14 & 17, 2018**

**Fourth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

***Romans 5:6-11 CW: Year A***  
***EHV®***



<sup>6</sup>For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Dear Children of our Heavenly Father-precious in Hi sight for Jesus' sake:

Last winter there was a little boy just 12 years old – hanging around the park with his 11 year old friend named Anthony. There were signs all around the park. The signs said, “Danger

Thin Ice – and in Spanish Peligro Hielo Fino. That means – don't go out on the pond! Don't go out on the ice! The 12 year old went out on the pond – out on the ice – farther and farther – until he broke through. Immediately his friend Anthony ran out and pulled his friend out – but then he couldn't get out. His friend ran to an apartment to get help. Someone called 911 and within 4 minutes police officers and fire fighters plunged into the frigid water – up to their chests. When they found Anthony and pulled him to safety and did all the things they do when you have been submerged in the frozen water – it was too late! Too late! Would you do that? Would you risk your life – even lay down your life – for your best friend? For your child – for your grandchild! Of course you would! Mommies and Grandpas love their little people more than life itself! But why would Jesus lay down His life to save wretched sinners like us? It makes no sense! It makes no sense at all – that the innocent Son of God – would shed His innocent blood to save us! But that's exactly what Jesus did! He died to redeem us.

## **Jesus Reconciled Us To God!**

### **I. Jesus died for sinners**

### **II. Therefore, We Go On Rejoicing!**

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on today is part of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans! Romans – almost 20 years ago there was a movie that began with the Roman Legions doing battle with the Germanic Tribes. In the year of our Lord 180 there was no army on the face of the earth that could stand against the Roman Legions. The Roman shield was massive. The Romans would do this testudo thing – their shields side by side

and literally overhead like a Tortoise Shell. Between the shields there was just enough room for the Roman spears to poke through. The massive Roman line moved forward – the spears thrusting – the shields smashing – the Roman boots trampling *anyone* or *anything* that got in the way. The German soldiers absolutely fierce and strong – were no match for the absolute disciplined power the Roman front line pushing the enemy literally on their heels! Then seemingly out of nowhere – more Roman Legions – coming from both sides – the short swords – the archers – the chariots – horses that trampled and wheels that ran over. And then just as the Germans were realizing there is no resisting – we need to retreat – retreat – run for your life – here came one more line of Roman soldiers – one more turtle shell – with the thrusting spears. There was no escape! There was not an army on the face of the earth that could stand against the fierce discipline of the Roman Legions. Thus came the Pax Romana – the Roman Peace. The Army that crushed anyone and everyone so foolish to try to resist. They would conquer a city – and literally crucify people – to teach their enemies – once and for all – there is no point – no point in ever resisting! To people who understood discipline – understood power and authority and the rule of law – came the Letter to the Romans about the Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ – who died on a † to take away all their sins. Prof. Armin Panning – who wrote the People’s Bible volume on Romans – is without doubt – one of the most gifted and humble and faithful teacher I ever had – first at Northwestern College and then at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and then at many quarters of Summer School. Professor Panning would show you Jesus! I am truly blessed to call him my friend!

For many weeks now – we have been slowly but surely reading through Romans! In The Lutheran Study Bible Martin Luther is quoted as saying Romans is like the greatest of all the books of the New Testament. “It tells us most abundantly the things that a Christian ought to know namely, what is law, gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, righteousness, Christ, God, good works, love, hope and the ✠ and also how we are to conduct ourselves toward everyone, be he righteous or sinner, strong or weak, friend or foe – and even toward our own selves.” So it’s like read Romans all the time – *all the time*. Luther said more than once – it would be a blessing if every Christian memorized the whole letter to the Romans – word for word – every single word! What a blessing that would be for you and for everyone who knows you! What a blessing for your whole family!

Context! Romans chapter 5 – the opening verses! **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, <sup>4</sup> and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope will not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our ♥s by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.**

The essence of Lutheranism by the grace of God – is knowing we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. There is hard-wired into almost everyone this idea that if you are good – very *very* good – you will go to Heaven. You are hard-wired to think good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. Be

good – and you will be rewarded. It's just not true! We are justified – declared not guilty – only by the grace of God. When we know all our sins are forgiven – only then – by the power of the Holy Spirit – can **we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. And hope will not put us to shame – will not disappoint us because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit!**

**<sup>6</sup>For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** Jesus did not die for us because we *deserved* His sacrifice – deserved His forgiving love – quite the opposite. While we were still dead in our trespasses and sins Jesus died for us! He was nailed to the cross for wretched sinners like me and like you! This is grace – undeserved – unmerited love – that is unconditional and powerful!

**<sup>9</sup>Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life.** The Prophet Isaiah wrote about all that Jesus would suffer to save us: **Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. Isaiah 53 NIV

<sup>10</sup>For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. Jesus died and rose again to forgive us! It is our sinful flesh that makes us enemies of our Heavenly Father. Remember after the Flood our Heavenly Father promised never again would He send a world wide flood to destroy everybody--He said to Himself, **"I will never again curse the ground because of man, even though man's inclination is evil from his youth."** Genesis 8:21b HCSB It's true! **Every inclination of our ♥ is only evil all the time!**

When we were very young – we talk about the “terrible 2s” to when we are very old – the temptation to say things that are rude and hurtful and wrong. The danger that when we get old – we will for countless different reasons say and do things that are painfully inappropriate. It is our sinful nature that sins all the time. The powerful truth of the Gospel is that even when we were at our worse – God reconciled us to Himself! We are redeemed – bought back – ransomed – declared not guilty – justified for Jesus' sake. If Jesus forgives us at our worse – imagine all the

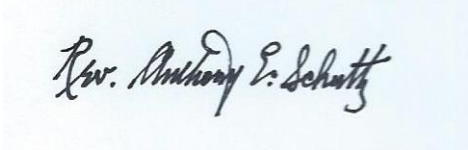
blessings we have – as forgiven children of God – heirs of forgiveness for Jesus’s sake!

**<sup>11</sup>And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.** I read the other day that the last Munchkin died – the last little person that met Dorothy and Toto when they crash-landed in Oz. The last Munchkin was a member of the Lollipop Guild – just 3’8” tall – the one in the middle! I still remember being blessed to attend Meinhart Raabe’s the Munchkin’s coroner’s funeral at Immanuel in Farmington. I remember Pastor Pagel saying Meinhart would come to communion at Immanuel. Would kneel on the pulpit side and receive Jesus’ true body through and through pennies worth of bread – and then get up and walk behind the altar to kneel on the lecturn side – to receive Jesus’ true blood – through and through a sip of wine! Pastor Pagle said by grace alone Meinhart knew who the Lamb of God is! Meinhart knew Jesus is his Savior and Lord! Meinhart is safe in Heaven by Jesus forever!

**We also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.** On July 1, 1916, at the Battle of Thiepval Ridge in World War I, British Army Private William McFadzean of the 14th Battalion, the Royal Irish Rifles threw himself on top of a box of Mills bombs after the pin came loose on two of them whilst he was attempting to load the bombs into a bandolier. As a result of his action only one other man in the trench was injured in the resulting explosion. McFadzean was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. It happens again and again – people in uniform – love their neighbor – and practice and train and again and again – what to do in terrible danger. Again and again – they take

the brunt of the hurt. They take the brunt of enemy fire to spare their fellow soldiers and sailors and airmen! Jesus made the ultimate and the purest sacrifice to set us forever safe and free. Forever will not be long enough to sing and say and pray: **Thank you, Jesus!**

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Rev. Anthony P. Schatz" in a cursive script.