

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

**Lenten Vesper #5.  
March 21, 2019  
Hebrews 10:19-25**



*Confidence Through Christ*

**<sup>19</sup> Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus.**

**<sup>20</sup> It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh. <sup>21</sup> We also have a great priest over the house of God. <sup>22</sup> So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.**

*Do Not Keep On Sinning*

**<sup>24</sup> Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. <sup>25</sup> Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

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

There are some scary places – places that make your ♥ beat faster. Places where you realize you don't know or understand all the rules – and if you make a mistake – if you do something wrong--there may be very painful consequences! On Judgment Day one of the things Jesus will say is, "I was sick and in prison and you visited me!" If you visit someone in Jefferson County Jail

or Dodge County Jail – before you can actually go by someone – you have to show ID – like a driver’s license or your Passport! You need to empty your pockets – your car keys – your wallet – your phone. I usually lock them all in my car. You have to take your belt off and your shoes off – and put them in plastic bins through an X-ray machine! Sometimes they put a little stamp on the back of your hand – that only becomes visible under black light! Sometimes you get frisked – patted down – which tickles! They sometimes call prison *the slammer* – because that’s what the doors – the gates – the bars do when they close them – they slam. Often times there are very tall fences – with razor wire all curled around and around at the very top. Sometimes it’s even electrified. There are warning signs all over the place! You can visit people – but you aren’t supposed to touch them – no hugs – no shaking hands! Armed guards sometimes keep watch. It’s kind of scary – even if you have done it a bunch of times! If you think that’s scary – imagine literally – physically – drawing near to God – the Great I AM – the Holy One of Israel! That was a joy reserved for the High Priest – once a year on The Great Day of Atonement. Today the Gospel comforts us:

**Jesus, Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests**

- I. Jesus gives us confidence**
- II. Let us encourage each other!**

The part of God’s Word we have been concentrating on this past Lenten Season is the letter to the Hebrews! Context! Hebrews chapter 10! Lenten Vesper #3 we talked about Jesus our self-sacrificing High Priest! We talked about Andrew – the guy in Florida who scrubs and cleans the grave stones of Veterans – to show appreciation for their sacrifices for our Country. We talked about sacrifices you can make – to help your neighbor – doing

without – sometimes painfully without – to help family, friends or complete strangers. All our self-sacrifice pales to insignificance compared to Jesus' sacrifice of Himself upon the  $\dagger$  to redeem us!

That's the first part of Hebrews chapter 10. Then comes a part where God says, **I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds.** Then he adds: **"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."** And where these have been **forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.** It was November 3<sup>rd</sup> last year – I stood at the foot of the bed of Martin Lohmiller – over 100 years old – when the angels came to carry his soul home to Heaven. Martin Lohmiller's funeral was out in Watertown, South Dakota – committal by a little place called Henry, South Dakota. Mr. Lohmiller's grandson Pastor Thomas Engelbrecht – preached for his grandpa's funeral. His text was Jeremiah 31:34 **"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more!"** Pastor Engelbrecht said it's sometimes hard – when you have a really good memory. It's hard – because you remember some really painful things that happened to you a long time ago. It's hard – because you remember some really painful things that I did – a long time ago. I remember running as fast as I could in my stocking-feet one more time – after I was told to stop--and skidding – like an Olympic snow boarder – and crashing into the sharp edge of a metal wastebasket – and slicing my chin open and getting 2 stitches. I have that little scar – hidden by my salt and pepper whiskers – but I know it's there – it's still there! And that was a very long time ago. I remember being scolded in first grade – when I was supposed to sit very still – while my teacher traced the outline of my head – to make a black silhouette on white construction paper with a yellow construction frame! That was a very long time ago too! The good news in Jeremiah and in

Hebrews chapter 10 is – Jesus’ memory of my countless mistakes does not recall my failures. And neither should I!

Then comes the part we are concentrating on. Hebrews – the last part of chapter 10. **19 Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. 20 It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh. 21 We also have a great priest over the house of God.** The Most Holy Place! A place not flawless in its flooring and curtains and the ark of the covenant – but set apart – belonging to and dedicated to the Almighty. It was a place that nobody – nobody dared set foot – on pain of death – except for the High Priest – on the Great Day of Atonement – one day each year – armed with sacrificial blood – on account of his sins and the sins of the people he represented! We don’t do the Great Day of Atonement any more – because Jesus died one time – on the altar of the  $\ddagger$  once for all!

**22 So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. A sincere ♥!** Part of Pastoral education is the study of languages. Sincere – from the Latin sine scere – without wax. Back in the day – you could buy a soup bowl in the market place – take it home – and fill it with very hot home-made chicken soul. If the bowl was a fake – a fraud – a fatal crack painted over with wax – the soup melts the wax – the bowl fails along the crack and you have a lap full of soup. How to know your bowl is not a fake and a fraud. The good ones were stamped on the bottom – sine scere – without wax! What you see is the truth! Come near to your Heavenly Father with a sincere ♥! Jesus will always recognize a fake – always recognize a make believe believer! **Because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience.** Do you know what it feels like to have a bad

conscience? Very little children understand a bad conscience. They will do something painful and hurtful and wrong. And when they realize it – they will literally try to hide! How old do you have to be – before you realize you can't hide from God! You can't even hide from people forever. There was a guy in Ohio named Frank. He escaped from prison – the prison where they filmed the Shawshank Redemption and for 56 years he was on the lam. Every morning for 56 years he had to wake up and wonder – is today the day I will be caught? And sure enough after more than 56 years of trying to hide he was caught and taken back to prison! You can't hide from the police! And you sure as they world – can't hide from God. The only cure for a bad conscience is Jesus' forgiving love! Jesus has taken away all our sins – every single one. The sins we have failed to forgive ourselves – Jesus has forgiven! His blood spilled on the  $\frac{1}{11}$  has taken them all away!

**<sup>24</sup> Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works.** There is no better way to encourage love and kindness than by a powerful example! Remember the Scriptures we read as part of every wedding, "**Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her!**" Jesus loved His Church – you and me – that He died to save us. If we are going to dare to claim we love our wife like Christ loved the Church – we need to live for them – dedicated to keep them safe and happy. God's Word says, "**Fathers do not exasperate your children...** Don't make your demands so impossible they despair of pleasing you. Instead **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord!** Teach your children by your powerful example to love Jesus more than life itself. And they will teach your grandchildren to love and respect Jesus and you! And then you can have one of the sweetest blessings of all –

forever in Heaven with your Savior and with your great-grandchildren – by the grace of God – none of them missing!

**<sup>25</sup> Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.** Meeting together is coming to Church and Bible study! Why is that so important? It's important because we are living in end times. How can I say that? How do I know? It's in the Bible! Where in the Bible? In the Gospel of the tax collector Matthew – chapter 24! God's Word says – Jesus told His disciples: **“Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> Because many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will deceive many people. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, because all these things must happen; but that is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> But all these things are only the beginning of birth pains. <sup>9</sup> Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will put you to death. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. <sup>10</sup> Then many will fall away from faith. They will betray each other and hate each other. <sup>11</sup> Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But whoever endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.** Listen carefully: **<sup>12</sup> Because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold.** There is danger to our marriages – danger to our families – danger to our faith! There is safety, sanctuary and rescue in Jesus' nail marked hands and nowhere else!

For Jesus' sake – by grace alone – we can all do the work of priests – Gospel work! **Encourage each other!** Encourage! Build



up – don't criticize, complain, find fault and tear down. Encourage each other! You need to encourage from a sincere ♥! My Professor and teacher President Panning who when my bowling score was horrible in the 9<sup>th</sup> frame said, "A lesser man would be discouraged! A lesser man would be discouraged!" He said that the year I graduated from high school – 1970! That's a very long time ago – and I remember it still. I remember it like he said it today! You can say something kind to build someone up and they will remember it decades from now. I remember one time I brought my car to grandpa Raduenz to fix. I tried to fix it by myself! Grandpa Raduenz said, "Don't help!" He said he didn't help me write sermons – I dasn't help him fix cars! Then he reached into his wallet and got out this little piece of paper all folded up and stained with grease. It was one of those little prayers – just an inch or so in the Watertown Daily Times. It was a little prayer – barely one or two sentences. It said, "Thank you Jesus for helping me to do my job – whatever my work might be! Help me to do my job the best possible way to the glory of God!" There are people everywhere you can encourage! Like the person checking you out at the Piggly Wiggly! I scramble to put my groceries in those little plastic bags – feeling guilty when I don't have my cloth bags with me. When the check out girl says, "Oh, you don't have to do that!" I tell them, "Literally – before you were born I used to do this for hours and hours in a row. It's all in the wrist! Eggs and bread on the bottom – soap with the meat – spread the frozen foods around! No..." And I thank people who bag my groceries – double bagging the heavy stuff – keeping things apart! Appreciate and encourage! I have very precious friends that say, "Nobody every thanks me for what I do!" They should! Thank you to the people who pick up your trash every week – your bigger bin of recyclables every other week. They come no matter how cold the wind and the snow – or how

scorching the summer sun or the Spring downpours. Thank you to the people who fix our cars – with wrenches that slip and parts that are rusty and hot and sharp. Thank you to police officers and fire fighters and first responders who run toward the danger when everyone else runs away. Thank you to those who serve in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard and Reserves – who serve – often away from home – even overseas – risking their lives – in Harm’s Way – to defend our flag and our people! Thank you Jesus for the gift of encouragement to build up and enable and empower – those who serve so faithfully because they love their Savior and love their country. Thank you, Jesus! Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schmitt", is centered on a light blue rectangular background.