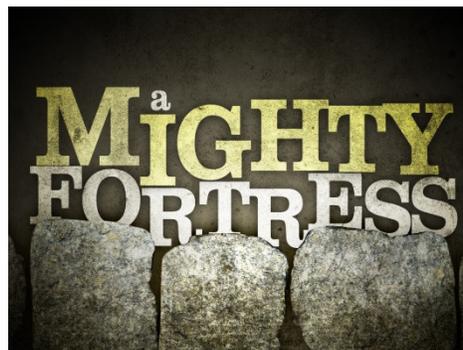


St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz
Last Judgment *November 10, 2013*
Psalms 90 Holman Christian Standard



Eternal God and Mortal Man

A prayer of Moses, the man of God.

¹ Lord, You have been our refuge in every generation.

² Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth

to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, You are God. ³ You return mankind to the dust, saying, "Return, descendants of Adam." ⁴ For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night. ⁵ You end their lives; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning—⁶ in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening it withers and dries up. ⁷ For we are consumed by Your anger; we are terrified by Your wrath.

⁸ You have set our unjust ways before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. ⁹ For all our days ebb away under Your wrath; we end our years like a sigh. ¹⁰ Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. ¹¹ Who understands the power of Your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due You. ¹² Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. ¹³ LORD—how long? Turn and have compassion on Your servants. ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with Your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us rejoice for as many days as You have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity. ¹⁶ Let Your work be seen by Your servants, and Your splendor by their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!

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

I was watching TV the other day when they had a commercial for Guinness Stout—that really dark fermented grain beverage—like Bock beer that you drink during Lent. It is served in a pint glass—with this perfect little foam on the top! Anyway—they showed one of these basketball games—where the players are all in wheel chairs. Know what I mean? They are all sweating bullets—their really thin legs sometimes strapped together and strapped down. Their arms are really strong—the look on their eyes one of incredible intensity. They wheel around and around—pushing wheels—grabbing the ball—that squeak from the wheels on the floor—a shot and a miss and a crashing scramble for the rebound. And I thought to myself—and to think sometimes I feel sorry for myself—because I'm not 6'8 like my friend Pastor Beck Goldbeck III! There was a whistle—and this wheelchair basketball game came to an end—and all but one man leaped out of their wheelchair and went to get a Guinness! And I thought to myself—that is the definition of a friend—to be willing in a most literal way to sacrifice—for you! Jesus did that. Remember Isaiah 53? **Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows—yet we considered him stricken by God—smitten by him and afflicted. But he was wounded for transgressions—he was crushed for our iniquities—the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed! We all like sheep have gone astray—each of**

us has turned to his own way—and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all! Jesus became true man—one of us to save us from all our sins. Today as we consider Psalm 90 we will see:

The LORD Is Our Refuge!

- I. We are only dust and ashes
- II. Still we rejoice in His unfailing love!

Today our sermon is from the book of Psalms. There are lots of Psalms in God's Word—150 Psalms to be exact. The Book of Psalms is actually divided into 5 books. Did you know that? Psalm 90 is the start of book 4. Psalm 90 through 106 are book 4. Psalm 107 to 150 is book 5. Today we are concentrating on Psalm 90—a Psalm written by Moses—the only Psalm in God's Word by Moses in the book of Psalms. The subtitle—part of the inspired Word of God says, **"A prayer of Moses—a man of God!"** What could be more wonderful than that? Imagine if God's Word said you were a man, a woman, a child of God! That's all that matters in the whole wide world! It doesn't matter if you have a very big home—with a three car garage so full there isn't room to park your cars and trucks—or you have a small apartment—and you have to park on the street! It doesn't matter if you have a Jerry Garcia tie—or you have an old tie—that's got a stain on it from the salad dressing from the last wedding you went to. It doesn't matter if you are very symmetrical or not—if your hair or teeth or whatever is like a model from a Kohl's ad—or if you really don't like to have your picture taken. It doesn't matter! Your Heavenly Father doesn't look at people on the outside. Jesus looks at the inside. There he finds sin. And Jesus forgives that sin—washes it all away forever and for good!

God's Word again this morning—is law and gospel! It's about the wages of sin which is death. And it's about the grace and mercy and forgiveness we have from the LORD—the Great I AM—the Holy One of Israel—who changes not—the same yesterday and today and forever! **¹Lord, You have been our refuge in every generation. ²Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, You are God.** From the very beginning we are in awe of God! Again—consider creation. There are so many different creatures in the sea. Did you ever hear of the Immortal Jellyfish—Immortal Jellyfish? This Jelly-fish is really small—smaller than a quarter of an inch! Really little Jellyfish live a few hours—bigger Jellyfish live a few months and really big Jellyfish can live a year or two. I didn't know that. Immortal Jellyfish are really small—smaller than a ¼ of an inch. They look like a little parachute—with tiny tentacles hanging down—floating freely in warm ocean waters—sucking food through these little tentacles. Just about the time you think it's going to die—it begins to transform—back to this little tiny stalk—that fastens itself to something solid—like it's a little baby Jellyfish all over again—then it grows up to be the parachute thing—and then—back to a baby Jellyfish! It's like it never grows old—never dies? Is that possible? No! How do I know—because this whole world is spoiled by sin—even Jellyfish? The whole creation groans as in the pains of child-birth because of sin!

God's Word says, **"³You return mankind to the dust, saying, "Return, descendants of Adam."⁴ For in Your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night. ⁵You end their lives; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning—⁶in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening it withers and dries up." Return mankind to the dust!** It was back in High School Biology and again in College Biology that they used to talk about all the different chemicals in the human body—Oxygen and Carbon and Hydrogen and Nitrogen, Calcium and Sodium, Chlorine and Magnesium, Iron and Iodine.

There's also trace amounts of silicon, manganese, fluorine, copper, zinc, arsenic and aluminum. The going rate for all these elements? \$1. They say your skin – if it were cowhide – which sells for 25¢ a square foot – at cowhide prices you could get up to \$4.50 round up to \$5! That's not much – I don't think. The fact is – organs for transplant – or blood or platelets for transfusion can be the difference between life and death. But – truth be told – in the end – we are but dust and ashes. And in spite of anything and everything they might do at Hafemeisters' or Pedersons' or Schmutzler-Vick's – we are but dust – because we are descended from Adam and Eve. Our parents and grandparents were conceived and born sinfully fatally flawed and so are we! That's just one of the reasons why little babies need to be born – physically born – then born again through Holy Baptism – the fundamental truth that their sins are washed away – saving faith planted in their hearts and they are adopted into the family of God! It is so important that we do everything possible to help babies – not only to be born – then baptized – but brought up to learn God's Word. We need to be so faithful – not only defending life that begins at conception – but using all of God's gifts to nurture that life – so that unbelievers who might accuse us of only caring until babies are born – would be ashamed of even accusing us of just standing by – when little people and their family – whatever it might look like – would be ashamed to accuse us of painful hurtful neglect!

7 For we are consumed by Your anger; we are terrified by Your wrath. 8 You have set our unjust ways before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. 9 For all our days ebb away under Your wrath; we end our years like a sigh. 10 Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. 11 Who understands the power of Your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due You. Our secret sins...all the times we thought we were so clever – no one saw us – there's no way we could get caught. We were clever, quick and sneaky! Really? Jesus knows our every thought. He sees everything we do. God's Word asks in Psalm 139 O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. 5 You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," 12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. Jesus knows all our weaknesses – flaws and painful failures – and still he forgives us – still he loves. His amazing grace never fails! Instead of being angry with us – hating us and sending us into the flames of eternal destruction he has mercy on us and washes away all our guilt!

14 Satisfy us in the morning with Your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days. 15 Make us rejoice for as many days as You have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity. 16 Let Your work be seen by Your servants, and Your splendor by their children. 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands – establish the work of our hands! Wallace Hartley – was the name of the band leader – who played a violin on the Titanic – while it was sinking – after it crashed into an ice berg back in 1912! People thought the violin had sunk with the Titanic. Then some people said Wallace had strapped the violin to himself – before he died in the cold water. Apparently

the last 7 years – experts have spent thousands of £s to authenticate this violin. What kind of bothers me – is this violin will be placed where people can come and look at it – in a museum less than a mile from where the Titanic was built. I imagine it will just sit there – where people will point at it – take its picture – and then walk on. It won't do the one thing for which it was made in the first place. It won't be played! How sad – I think. The fact is – there are literally billions of people – who in their lifetime – don't do the one thing for which they were made – to give glory to God. How do you do that? Jesus said very simply – everyone will know that you are my students – followers – imitators – if you love one another. **Establish for us the work of our hands – establish the work of our hands.** Fill our ♥ with Jesus' forgiving love. Then make us strong to do whatever we do – to love and forgive and help one another for Jesus' sake. Amen!

To God alone all glory!
Rev. Anthony E. Schultz