

Text: Acts 3:11-21

Theme: Blotted out

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the First lesson of Acts chapter three verses eleven through twenty-one.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Good Morning Boys and Girls! How are you? Good? Excellent. Do you guys know what I have here? These are called ink blots. They are used to figure out what someone is thinking inside, how they feel and act and why they do so. I will not be testing any of you but in our text for today, we see what the people of Israel were thinking when Jesus died. They killed Jesus even though they were unaware of that fact. St. Peter says that their sin, and ours as well, are blotted out. What does that mean? How does that happen? What does it mean for our lives today? Let's listen to the rest of the sermon and find out. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

When asked if he would recant and retract what he had written against the church of Rome, Martin Luther stated a confession that has since become famous worldwide, ““Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen” (LW 32:112–13). We too stand boldly in the footsteps of Martin

Luther 500 years later. We stand boldly, proclaiming the One who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We stand boldly, renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways. We stand, by the grace of God, steadfast and ready to suffer all rather than fall away. We do not stand on Luther, but we will gladly stand with him, firm on the testimony of the Holy Scriptures to confess the saving Gospel of Christ, our Good Shepherd, who died and rose, in whose name is forgiveness of sins for all people. Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen.

How greatly do we need that forgiveness of sins? St. Peter is quite clear as to how much his hearers need forgiveness. Look at what he says, St. Peter accuses his hearers of the darkest sin of all, “You killed the author of life.” Peter does not mince words. His hearers are in need of forgiveness because even though they might have acted in ignorance, they still sinned. Well are you any better than them? You may not have killed the author of life directly, but what actions do you do? You know that you are not perfect. You know well the dark and sinful deeds you have done. You know the many, great, and grievous sins you have committed. You lie, cheat, steal, look at others with lustful intent. You disrespect those in authority over you. You do not use your words properly or for the betterment of your neighbor or for his reputation. You put other things in the place where God should rightly be as your Creator and Redeemer. You have done all of this, and I am sure, much more. You have done many dark things What hope is there for you?

Your hope is found in the very fact that the author of life, the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, was indeed killed. He was delivered into the hands of sinful men who handed Him over to Pontius Pilate. Pilate tried to free Jesus but eventually gave into the demands of the crowds and handed Jesus over to be crucified. Jesus suffered, bleed, and died upon the cross. All because of evil men, all because of the plan of Salvation for you. Jesus shed His blood on your behalf so that you could

receive, not the wrath of God, but the refreshing times of His blessing, mercy, and grace. The forgiveness of your sins and the salvation of your souls, that your sins are blotted out by the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Your sins, all of them, have been forgiven. The price has been paid for you already. When Satan tries to accuse you, you can say, “I am a child of God, purchased with His own blood.” This forgiveness won for us by His blood “refreshes us” It gives us strength to face the hard times. It give us the endurance to weather all of the assaults of the devil. It give us the courage to boldly proclaim what Jesus has done for all the world. . In this faith, you can stand boldly, trusting in the word of Scripture that the faith in Jesus forgives, heals, and saves. Thus, you stand in good company, with Luther and all the Saints, boldly proclaiming the forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal life granted to you based on Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection from the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.