

8 October 2017 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Is. 5:1–7; Psalm 80:7–15; Philip. 3:4b–14; Mt. 21:33–46.

INTRO: Review: Scripture, Faith, Grace. Today: *Solus Christus* (“Christ Alone”). LOL: “Luther recovered for the church from the Bible the centrality of the person and work of Christ in redemption.”



I. GOD INCARNATE.

Luther: “I believe that Jesus Christ, **true God**, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.” (Small Catechism).

Exodus 3:14, “God said to Moses, ‘**I am who I am.**’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: **I am** has sent me to you.’”

John 8:58-59, “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am.**” So they picked up stones to throw at him.”

John 10:30-33, “‘**I and the Father are one.**’ Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’ ‘We are not stoning you for any good work,’ they replied, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim to be God.**’”



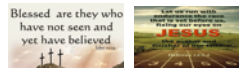
II. TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.

Luther: “Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won [delivered] me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” (SC).

John 1:29, “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

Luther: “Faith does not create the promise or make Jesus the Saviour; rather, **faith simply rests on the saving Jesus.**”

Luther: “The first thing you see in this Person of Christ is that He does not look at anyone with a sour face, treat anyone in an unfriendly manner, or frighten and drive anyone away from Him; He invites and draws all men to Him in the kindest manner, both with His words and with His bearing. He shows Himself as a servant who wants to help everybody. Furthermore, He lets Himself be crucified for you and freely sheds His blood. All this you see with your eyes; and with your ears you hear nothing but friendly, sweet, and comforting words, such as: ‘Let not your hearts be troubled’ (John 14:1); ‘Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden’ (Mt. 11:28); ‘Whoever believes in Me shall not be lost, but have eternal life’ (John 3:16), etc. etc. From this you can infer with certainty that He is not hostile to you but wants to show you all grace and goodness. Cling to this; hold firmly to it; do not permit your eyes or your thoughts to stray beyond this; and let nothing else that occurs to you lead you off the right path.”



III. RISES FROM THE DEAD.

Luther: “in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, **even as He is risen from the dead**, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.” (SC).

Luther boldly declared that he would rather have Jesus present in the preaching of the Word than in person: “Thus He comes to us

through the gospel. Yes, it is far better than he comes through the gospel than that he would now enter in through the door; for you would not even know him even though he came in. If you believe then you have; if you do not believe then you do not have.” (LOL).

Mark 14:28, “After I am raised up, I will go **before you** to Galilee.”

Hebrews 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set **before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Luther: “Therefore one must teach as follows: ‘Behold, Christ died for you! He took sin, death, and hell upon Himself and submitted Himself. But nothing could subdue Him, for He was too strong; He **rose from the dead**, was completely victorious, and subjected everything to Himself. And He did all this in order that you might be free from it and lord over it. If you believe this, you have it.’” (LOL).



CONCLUSION Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”