

Sermon Notes – “God Brings Both Repentance and Faith to His People”

Acts 2 and Joel 2

I. Joel 2:12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.
14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people. Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber... _____ = stop/turn

II. 18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people... _____

III. (vs 28) “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;...
(vs 32) ...And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be
saved. Christian life is both _____ and _____

Zion Lutheran Church’s Belief and Practice of the Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes again in glory.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For further study: Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f., 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34.

Rite of Dedication

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord, in His great love for us the eternal God has taken on human flesh and joined Himself to His own creation. Heaven and earth are now filled with His glory as He uses the things of this world to bring us His blessing. “He has made everything beautiful in its time” so that we may behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in His holy temple.

It is fitting, then, that this statue of Jesus and the Children be sanctified by Word and prayer for use in the Lord’s house.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your Son is the express image of Your glory so that when we behold Him we contemplate Your unending mercy. Bless and sanctify this [name of object], which is offered in honor of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that all who behold it may, by Your grace, be strengthened in the true faith and worship You with a steadfast heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this [name of object] and those who behold it.

Note: Carolyn Switzer wished to give Zion Lutheran Church the statue of “Jesus and the Children” upon her death and so directed in her estate.