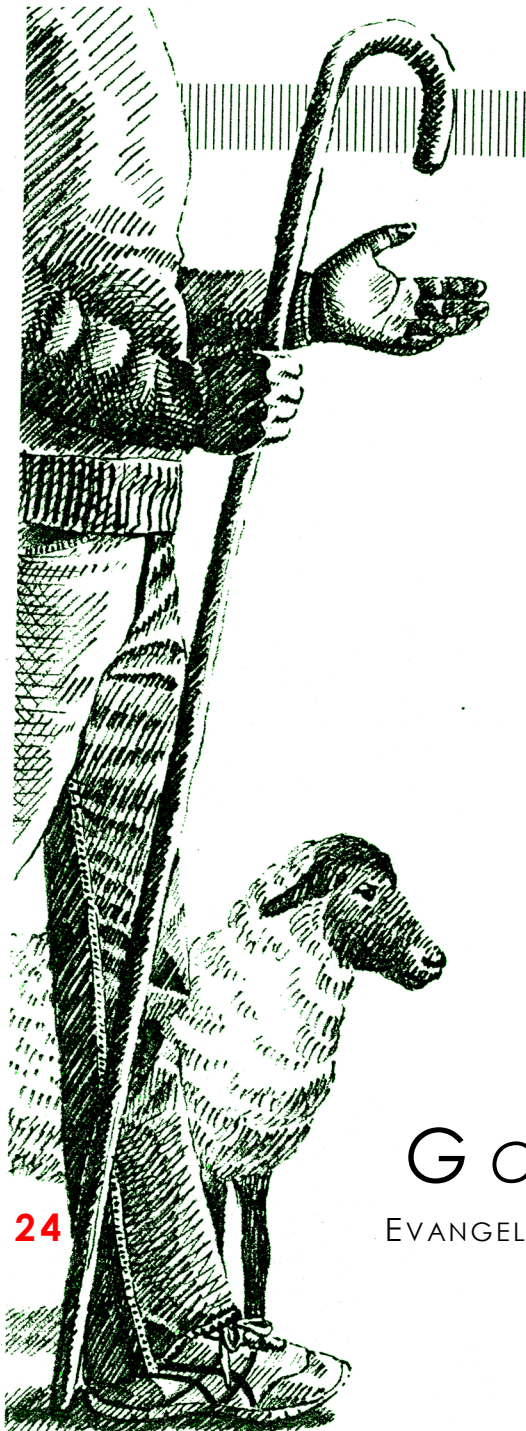


Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15



Daily 5

With

Luther

24

GOOD SHEPHERD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA

*Serving all people with the
Gospel of Jesus Christ*

Pastor Paul A. Tullberg Pastor John T. Melke
3k-Gr.5 Principal/Educator Hannah E. Cook
ECM Director / Teacher Amanda Irwin

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

December 17

Your words are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. . . .

I have inherited Your testimonies forever.

Yes, they are the joy of my heart

Psalm 119:105, 111.

* * *

I prove that the Bible is the Word of God as follows:

All things that have been and now are in the world, including how things now stand and transpire in the world.

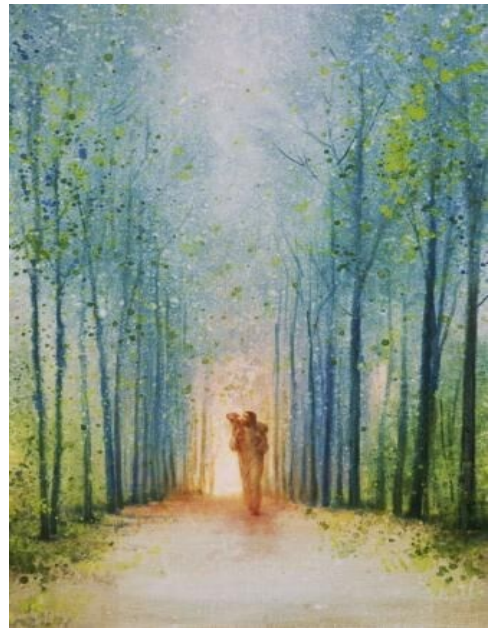
These things were written in some detail at the beginning, in the first Book of Moses concerning the Creation.

And just as God made and created it, even so it was, and even so it stands, to this present day. And although King Alexander the Great, the kingdom of Egypt, the empire of Babel, the Persian, Grecian, and Roman monarchs, the Emperors Julius and Augustus, most fiercely raged and swelled against this Book, they could not prevail at all. Early empires and rulers utterly failed to suppress and destroy this Book. They could not prevail at all.

Think: where are they? They are all gone and vanished. But this Book they despised and attacked has remained throughout time. This Book is and shall remain unmoved, in full and ample manner, as it was written at the first.

But who kept it and preserved it from such great and raging power? Who defends it still? Truly no human creature does this. It is only God Himself. God Himself, He is the right and rightful Master. And yet to us it is a great wonder that it has been so long kept and preserved, for the devil and the world are great enemies of it.

The devil (doubtless) has destroyed many good books in the Church. The devil has rooted out and slain many saints, concerning whom we have now no knowledge. But the Bible he has left untouched for he has not power over this Book, the Words of God.



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

Homer, Virgil, and others like them, may be profitable and ancient books, but in comparison with the Bible, they are as nothing.

But still Thy Law and Gospel, Lord, have lessons more divine;
Not earth stands firmer than Thy Word, nor stars so nobly shine.

December 18

How I love Your laws! I meditate on them all day long.
Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
because it is always with me.

Psalm 119:97-98.

* * *

The chief lesson and study in Divinity is well and rightly to learn to know Christ. For in Christ God is very graciously and kindly revealed to us. Therefore the Holy Spirit says through St. Peter: *Grow up in the knowledge of Christ.*

And Christ Himself also teaches that we are to learn to know Him only out of the Scriptures. Christ says this: *"You search the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them. They testify about Me!"*

So, we ought not to measure, censure, and understand the Scriptures according to our own natural sense and reason. Instead we are to meditate on them diligently with prayer. We search after Christ in the Holy Scriptures.

The devil and temptations also give us opportunity somewhat to learn and understand the Scriptures by experience and practice. Without trials and temptations we would never understand anything of them. Sadly this is true. For even though we diligently read and heard them, we seem to stand in need of trials to see the proof. This is a great rebuke and reproof on our own heads.

The Holy Spirit must remain the only Master and Tutor to teach us from Scripture. Let youth and scholars not be ashamed to learn from this Tutor.

When I find myself in temptation, then I quickly lay hold of and fasten onto some text in the Bible which Christ Jesus lays before

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

me. I lay hold of this: *Jesus Christ died for me!* From this I possess and receive comfort.

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord! Be now forever near;
Teach me to love You sacred Word, and view my Savior there.

December 19

“This is what the Lord says, ‘I don’t think the way you think.

The way you work isn’t the way I work. For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Isaiah 55:8-9

* * *

The reason why God passed so sharp a sentence against Adam, was that he had disobeyed God. Adam had eaten of the forbidden tree. The result was that for Adam’s sake the ground was cursed. All generations curse. The whole of mankind cursed and subjected to all manner of miseries. Indeed, finally, death was sent on all.

The sense and reason of the worldly-wise only look upon the biting of this fruit. They wrongly consider this a slight and trivial thing. They feel God brought too cruel a punishment, They feel God has announced too harsh a sentence against poor Adam.

Again, these worldlings stumble and are offended also at this next truth: According to the way they wrongly think that Christ despises and rejects good, honest, and holy people. Why? Because Christ sends them, the good ones, away from Himself. God calls them evil-doers.

It seems to the blind eyes of worldlings that God gives no regard for the fact that some in His name have done good! Some souls have prophesied in God’s name; some souls have cast out devils; some souls have done miracles.

But they instead observe a strange attitude of God in Christ. Christ turns His face *toward* sinners, not away from them. Christ *receives* public sinners who have heard His Word and believe in Him.

Christ eagerly *forgives* their sins; yes, He even *declares* them righteous and holy. Jesus *brings* them into God’s family as God’s children and

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

heirs of everlasting life and salvation. Christ does all of this without our asking, only out of His pure grace and mercy, without any good works.

Human reason, wisdom, and understanding cannot comprehend the living and true God in His majesty and gracious attitude. Therefore we must and shall neither seek nor search out what God's will, His substance and nature, is in any other place than where He reveals and explains Himself clearly: in His Word.

How most exact is nature's frame! How wise th' eternal Mind!
His counsels never change the scheme
That His first thoughts designed.

December 20

Yes, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so powerful is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As distant as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our rebellious acts from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

Psalm 103:11-13



* * *

God's foot-stool is revealed in Isaiah. God can reach far, far above heaven. The earth is His footstool, therefore God must needs be here, in the whole world, His footstool.

These are His words that reveal this: *Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; what is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest?"*

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My Word.

It is as if God would say: Those who tremble at My Word are the ones in whom I will have My rest and dwelling. Now these people of God are scattered here and there in the whole world.

And if God fills all things, then surely God must needs be everywhere, And so He is everywhere spiritually in His Word and Sacraments.

Therefore the one who desires to be wise before God, let him learn God's Word. Stand in fear of Him, for *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* Yet let such a person have a deep respect in such a way that he also places sure hope in God's goodness.

If any one will ask why God permits anyone to be hardened and fall into everlasting perdition, let him also ask, why God did not spare His only Son? Why did God give Him for us all, to die the most accursed death of the cross? This is more certainly a sign of His love for us poor people than of His wrath and anger against us. Such questions cannot be better solved and answered than by asking similar, reflective but contrary, questions. Let us therefore accept God's good will and not speculate concerning His Words and works.



To fear Your power, to trust Your grace, is our divinest skill; And he's the wisest of our race, who best obeys Your will.

December 21

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and in earth.

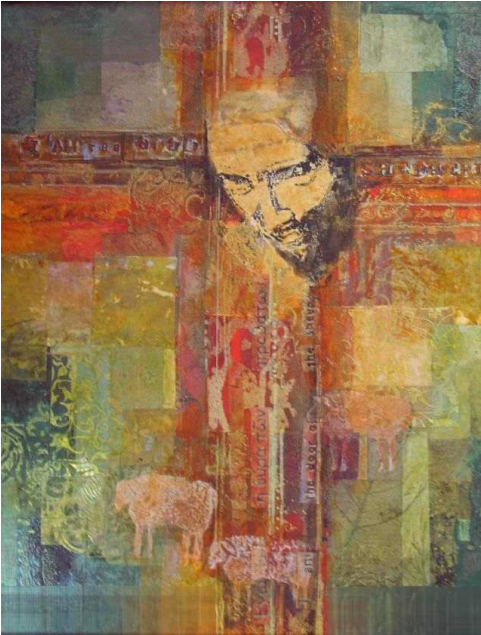
Matthew 28:18.

* * *

The Holy Scripture ascribes to Christ the same almighty power which is given to the Father. This is especially seen through the Holy Spirit's letters

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

through St. Paul. God gives grace, peace of conscience, forgiveness of sins, life, and victory over death and the devil.



Now, unless the Holy Spirit through Paul wanted to rob Himself of His honor and give His glory to something not God, He would not describe and ascribe Christ with these words. He would not designate such properties and attributes to Christ. God Himself clearly says: "I will not give My glory to another."

And indeed, no one can give something to another which he does not himself possess. But Christ gives grace, peace, and the Holy Spirit. Christ redeems from the power of the devil, from sin and death. It is most sure that Christ has an endless, immeasurable, almighty power equal with the Father's. For Christ is God.

Christ brings peace, not as the Apostles brought peace. The apostles and evangelists brought peace through preaching, but Christ gives it. Peace is gifted from the Creator to His creature.

The Father creates, gives life, grace and peace, and so also the Son gives the same gifts. Now, to give grace, peace, everlasting life, and the forgiveness of sins, and to deliver from death and hell, surely these are not the works of any creature! These great and wondrous gifts belong solely to the majesty of God.

We must imagine no other God than Christ. Anyone who does not speak out of Christ's mouth is not God. God will listen to no human creature except through Christ.

**All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.**

December 22

This is the true God and eternal life. 1 John 5:20

* * *

Christ, the Son of the Virgin Mary, is true God. The Scriptures fully witness this, especially the Gospel of the holy Evangelist John. All sentences in the Scriptures which speak of faith in Christ clearly show that He is true God.

This article, that Christ is true God, is grounded in the Holy Scriptures. There are sure and strong witnesses, especially in the New Testament, where Christ is often named God. The Scriptures reveal, with clear and explicit words, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). The First Commandment, *"You shall have no other gods."* God gives His honor to no one else (Isaiah 42:8) .

And John 20, where the Holy Spirit through His Apostle Thomas calls Christ God: *"My Lord, and my God."* In similar way, the Holy Spirit through Paul speaks of Christ is God, when He says: *"Who is over all, God blessed forever."* And Colossians 2: *"In Him (Christ) all the fullness of the Deity dwells in bodily form."*

If Christ is not God, then neither the Father, nor the Holy Ghost is God. The article of faith speaks clearly: "Christ is God, with the Father, and the Holy Ghost."

Therefore when I hear Christ say: "Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest," I believe steadfastly that the whole Godhead speaks to me.

Thou art the Way: to Thee alone
from sin and death we flee,
And he who would the Father seek,
must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.



December 23

"... all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

Whoever does not honor the Son
does not honor the Father who sent Him.

John 5:23

* * *

Whoever falls from the profession of the Gospel to the Law, and expects to be saved by good works, leaves the true service of God and falls for idolatry. Why is this so? Without Christ there is nothing but idolatry. Everything else is a fiction and an imaginary god.

Idolatry is plainly this: When things are not done according to God's Word. For when one desires to serve God, he must not measure by what he intends, nor by his work. When one serves God he must consider *how* it ought to be done, to consider whether God has commanded it or not. For we do not forget that God said to Saul (speaking through Samuel) : "*Obedience is better than sacrifice.*"

Therefore, whoever does not listen to God's voice is an idolater. Even if that person performs the highest and greatest service to God. It is service to and for the glory of someone or something else.

It is the nature of idolatry to choose that which is heavy and burdensome. Idolatry does not choose what is considered easy and light. The papist monks almost every day devised some new way of worshiping God. But because this was not commanded and was done for themselves, it was idolatry masquerading as truth.

Moreover, all blaspheming, ridiculing of God's Word, covetousness, wrong, force, etc., and the like, are mere idolatry. God with horrible severity punishes the wrong which is done our neighbor.

This is revealed and recorded in the Prophets. Think: how much more and how much harder will God punish when God sees His honor is stained, His doctrine and His worship twisted and made false by ungodly people?

Jesus! and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of Thee?
Ashamed of Thee, whom angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days?



"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

December 24

And is this the custom of man, O Lord God?

II Samuel 7:19

* * *

The truth that Christ is God and man is above human reason and understanding.

For when we try to bring the two natures in Christ (the divine and human) into one person, then human wisdom, reason, and understanding are startled, and say: How can this be? We do not understand it."

But take note: it is not written that you should understand and comprehend it with your natural sense and wisdom!

Rather the Scriptures are written to capture your heart and mind. You are to believe the Word of the Gospel through the operation and great working of the Holy Spirit. You are to give God the honor that is due Him. God is true and cannot lie.

The Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul says: *"However, an unspiritual person does not accept the truths taught by God's Spirit, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually evaluated. . .*

". . . Indeed, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who will instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Cor 2:14, 16).

And Christ says: *"In that day you will not ask Me anything. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you."* (John 16:23).



Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

"Whatever you ask for in prayer, as you believe, you will receive." (Matt 21:22).

"Therefore I tell you, everything that you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 6:24). Here Christ speaks as One who has all in His power. Christ, who has all power, can give everything for which one prays in faith.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on, to set His people free.

December 25

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring
you good news of great joy, which will
be for all people: Today in the town
of David, a Savior was born for you.

He is Christ the LORD.

Luke 2:10-11

* * *



On this day, Christ, our Lord and Savior, was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the pure and chaste body of the Virgin Mary.

Christ took on Himself the nature of man.

Christ became our brother. Christ placed us poor vile wretches in the highest honor, so high that we are now God's children and co-heirs with Christ.

For all of this we ought to rejoice far more than if we had received all the treasures of this earth.

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

To dispute about **how** it came to pass hinders this joy and gives occasion to doubt.

But the Word says: Doubt not! God fills heaven and earth,. Neither heaven nor earth is able to comprehend God. And it is this living and true God who was enclosed in the faithful and chaste body of His mother.

We Christians are glad and joyful! Think of the great and high honor which on this day was done to us! Think: the Son of God took on Himself, not the nature of angels, but the children and offspring of Abraham.



This article of Christ's humanity is most sure and certain.

In fact, nothing is a greater help in high spiritual temptations than this comfort. Remember Christ, the true everlasting God, is our flesh and bone!

As the Holy Spirit recorded through St. Paul: "We are members of His body." Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of God! Christ Jesus makes intercession for us, on our behalf.

With Christ Jesus, our Shield of faith, we drive away the deceiver, that wicked one with all his flaming arrows.

**To you this night is born a Child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little Child, of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.**

December 26

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

* * *

Let us fix and repose all our trust and confidence in Christ Jesus. Should it please the Lord to take me out of this life this hour, or tomorrow, or whenever He may choose, I acknowledge and wish to continue to acknowledge Jesus Christ for my Lord and my God.

I am taught this clearly in the Scriptures: I am to acknowledge and trust Jesus as my Lord and God. But I am also taught by God directing my many and various experiences to confirmed this knowledge.

For the name Jesus has often helped me when no creature whatever could help or comfort me! In this manner I have before me the Word and the deed, Scripture and experience. The loving Lord has given them both richly to me.

I have endured many trials and temptations, but they were all necessary and good for me. The spiritual trials teach in what ways Christ is profitable. And all those experiences certainly make me firmly believe that the Holy Scripture is truly the infallible Word of God.

In fact such trials have made that sentence in Scripture even more sure to me, if that were possible. What sentence is that of which I speak? The one where the Savior says: *“...I kept those you gave me safe in Your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed...”* (John 17:12); and also this Scripture: *“Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out.”* (John 6:37).



**I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives,
He lives, He lives, who once was dead, He lives, my ever-living Head.**

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

December 27

Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in His wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message.

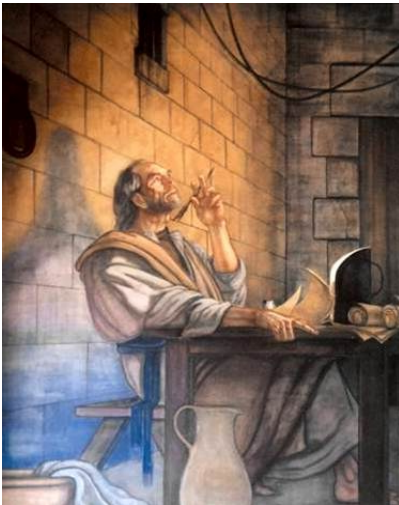
I Corinthians 1:21

* * *

All the wisdom of the world is merely childishness, yes, foolishness. It cannot even be compared with the divine knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.

For what is more wonderful than to know and to acknowledge the great unspeakable mystery: the eternal Son of the living God, the exact image of the eternal Father, has taken to Himself the nature of man, His creation.

Many fables have been imagined about the childhood and infancy of Christ, our Savior. But go to the Word! In Scripture you will find this most necessary point: with great diligence we are to seek to know Christ. He is the everlasting God who humbled Himself. So completely and thoroughly humbled himself as to be wrapped in flesh and born into such poverty and misery! And all this Christ has done, all of it, for the sake of our sins.



Soon after He was born, Joseph was forced to flee into Egypt with His mother and the Child. He had to flee because of Herod.

Herod sought to kill the Child. And when, after Herod's death, they returned to Nazareth, Jesus was obedient to His parents.

Whoever does not take offense at this simple and humble course of life which was revealed in Jesus, is truly blessed with a high, divine art and wisdom.

Yes, whoever believes this has a special gift from God. The world thinks little of this quiet gift that is without splendor. Yet that personal gift is the personal work of the Holy Spirit!

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

Our blessed Savior humbled and abased Himself. Christ was obedient to the most contemptible death of the cross. He suffered and died for the comfort of poor, miserable, sinful mankind.

Should He not be esteemed, respected, extolled, admired, worshipped and praised? Of course!

Hail Him, you heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call;
The God incarnate, Man divine: And crown Him LORD of all.

December 28

"For there is one God and one Mediator
between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus..."

1 Timothy 2:5

* * *

Christ, our High-priest, has ascended up into heaven. Christ now sits on the right hand of God the Father. Without ceasing Christ makes intercession for us.

Here through the Lord's apostle Paul God is teaching by the use of glowing terms to picture Christ before us:

In His death Christ is a Sacrifice offered up for our sins.

In His resurrection Christ is a Conqueror.

In His ascension Christ is a King.

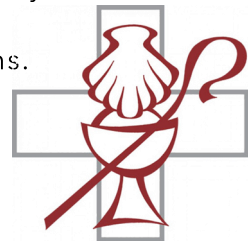
In making mediation and intercession Christ is a High Priest.

Christ will remain this, our Priest and our King.

Christ was ordained and consecrated by God Himself for this and by the Holy Spirit so anointed. This is what is written: "***The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind: "You are a Priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek."***" Psalm 110:4

And the second Psalm says: "***But as for Me, I have installed My King on Zion, My holy mountain.***" Therefore the Lord Christ will surely remain along with all who believe in Him. For the Lord God says: "***You are a Priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek.***"

What does this mean? Think: Christ is faithful and true. Christ loves us more than His own life. Christ demonstrated His faithful love by His bitter passion and death.



“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

Oh, how happy and blessed is the man who can believe this from his heart! The living God declares to us that His Christ shall be our Bishop and High Priest. And this Christ without ceasing, shall make intercession for those who are His.

It is indeed a great and a glorious comfort to know and believe that Christ, our High Priest, sits at the right hand Of God and prays for and mediates, intervenes on our behalf, without ceasing.

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend,
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!

December 29

By David. A psalm. The decree of the LORD to my LORD: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool under Your feet.”

Psalm 110:1

* * *

At times it seems as if Christ did not intercede for His poor troubled and persecuted members. Why does this appear to be so? Think: The wicked and deceitful world rewards God’s best and truest servants very poorly. They persecute, condemn and kill God’s servants as though they were the most wicked, mischievous heretics and malefactors. And Christ permits this to be done.

But the Scripture in many places names Christ our Priest, Bridegroom, etc. And the Scripture likewise calls us who believe in Him His bride, virgin, daughter, etc.

This is a wondrous picture which we are to always hold before our eyes. For *firstly*, He has manifested His office of priesthood. Christ did this for He preached, made known and revealed His Father’s will to us. And what is the Father’s will? Whoever believes in His eternal Son has everlasting life.

Secondly, Christ has also prayed, and will continue to pray for us Christians. Christ will do this as long as the world endures. He tells us this

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

Himself when He says, which He tells us when He says: *"I am praying not only for them, but also for those who believe in me through their message."* (John 17:20).



And **thirdly**, Christ has offered up His body for our sins on the tree of the cross, once, for all. Christ is our Bridegroom. We Christians are His bride. All that He, the loving Savior Christ has, yes, He Himself, is ours! How can this be? We hear and trust the Word given through His apostles Paul, "...because we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones." (Ephesians 5:30)

Who is the King of glory, who? The Lord, that all His foes o'ercame,
The world, sin, death, and hell o'erthrew;
And JESUS is the Conqueror's name.

December 30

"Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Matthew 28:19

* * *

In the Gospel of St. John, chapter 3, we are plainly shown the difference between the divine persons in the greatest work that God accomplishes for us poor human creatures. God justifies, that is, God declares us "not guilty", and saves us.

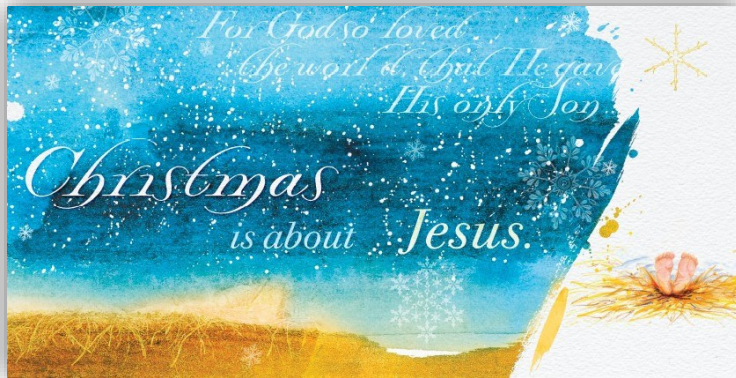
For here it is plainly written about the Father: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* (John 3:16).

The Father loves the world and gives His Son for it.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

The Son presents Himself to be given for the world, and, as Christ clearly says, He Himself consented to be lifted up on the cross. This was just as the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness. And why? So that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

To this work comes afterward the Holy Spirit, the Third Person, who kindles true faith in my heart through His Word. And so the soul is reborn, regenerated. Thus the Lord makes us the children of God.



Christ is true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit is true God; and yet there are not three Gods, nor three substances.

There is but one divine essence in three Persons. Whether this article seems strange or not, we believe it. Why do we believe it? Because it is grounded on God's clear Word and promises. The one true God is the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Your works shall praise Your name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

December 31

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Ephesians 6:10

*** * ***

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15

The life of a human creature is an on-going spiritual war on earth. A Christian must be a soldier, always striving and fighting against, engaging with the enemy. Through St. Paul, the Holy Dpirit describes the weapons of a Christian (Ephesians 6).

Firstly, *"Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist"* that is, the confession of the pure doctrine of the Gospel. This confession is sincere, not forced, not hypocritical, nor a fake faith.

Secondly, *with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place.* This is of the remission of sins, the faith of which Moses speaks (Genesis 15): *"Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness"*.

Thirdly, *"and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals.* These are the activities of our calling, namely the fruits of faith.

Fourthly, *"At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One."* Christ Himself and His atoning blood, we must hold firmly when attacked by the fiery arrows of the enemy.

Fifthly, *Also take the helmet of salvation.* This is the sure hope of everlasting life.

Sixthly, *and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.* The Word of God and prayer is mighty indeed! For just as the lion is frightened by nothing more than the crowing of a rooster, so the devil can be overcome and vanquished with nothing other than with the Word of God and prayer. Of this truth, the ever-living Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given us examples in His Word.

From strength to strength go on,
wrestle, and fight, and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day.
Still let the Spirit cry
in all His soldiers, "Come,"
Till Christ the LORD descends from high,
And takes the conquerors home.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

Luther's Morning Prayer

TUNE: HYFRODOL

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Father, Maker and Redeemer,
to You now I come in prayer
Thanks I give through Christ,
my Savior, for the night spent in Your care.
Keep me, Father, this day also
from all sin and guilt and shame;
Guard me through this day from evil.
Glorify Your holy Name.

Keep me all this day from sinning;
let my life please only You;
With Your Word of Jesus' mercy
lift me up to praise anew!
Send Your Angel, strong and mighty,
watching, guarding as my Friend;
Praise and peace through Christ my Savior,
now, eternally, without end!



Selections from Luther's Commentaries-St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 1535, Edwinus London; Epistles of St. Peter & St. Jude 1523, E. H. Gillett; Select Works of Martin Luther 1555, Rev. Henry Cole; Familiar Discourses of Luther 1566, Capt. Henry Bell, Rev. R.D.Fish; The Lutheran Hymnal; Rev. J.T. Mueller, 1925; Rev Paul A.Tullberg 2024.