

In That Day, You will Say...

Isaiah 12:1-6

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 2010

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

In that day you will say to Jesus: Let me give thanks to You, Jesus. You were angry with me, but Your anger turned aside so that You have compassion on me.

Jesus was angry with you. It is not often that we acknowledge that truth. We often say that Jesus was propitiating the Father's wrath against sin. In other words we assume that the Father is the One who is upset with sin and Jesus makes everything all better. While that is true, Jesus is also upset with sin in His own right. When He dies on the cross, Jesus not only makes things better between you and the Father, Jesus also makes things better between you and Himself.

In that day you will say, Let me give thanks to You, Jesus. You were angry with me, but Your anger turned away so that You have compassion on Me.

You will continue by saying: Jesus is My salvation. I trust in Him. I will not fear. Jesus is my strength and my melody.

Jesus is your salvation. He died on the cross for you. He rose again from the dead for you. All that He achieved He achieved for you. He did not seek Himself. He sought you. Everything that He did and said was centered around you.

It is as the catechism says: Jesus has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won 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 His innocent suffering and death. That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness.

Since Jesus has died for you and rose from the dead for you, on that day you will say, "I trust Him." I believe in Him. "I will not fear."

After all if Jesus rose from the dead for you, what is not to trust? If Jesus rose again from the dead for you, what is there to fear? Will you fear death? It is conquered in the resurrection of Jesus. If you will not fear death, then what else is there? What else can happen to you if death cannot touch you? Let them take my life, Jesus rose for me. I will rise.

That is why Jesus is your strength and your melody. Jesus is your strength because He rose from the dead. He is the strength that keeps you going. If Jesus rose from the dead and so you will rise, not only is there nothing to fear, it also means that you can do anything. You can risk everything. You can do everything. Even if you die eternity is yours. Even if you die, you have not lost anything. You still have everything in the world to look forward to.

The martyrs understood this. All of them looked forward to the resurrection. That is why they gave their lives in this life. That is why they were willing to give their lives for Jesus in this life. They were willing to do it because they knew that everything would be all right. Justin, Ignatius, Lawrence and all of the others who gave their lives did so in view that they still had plenty of life coming. Stephen saw Jesus standing at God's right hand. He knew that He would be with Jesus once they were done stoning him to death. If he did not see that, he would not have had the strength to bear the stones.

Jesus is your melody. If everything that I have said about Jesus is true, then what else is there to sing about? Are you going to sing about human love? Human love is temporary and subject to our wills. There are greater things to sing about. Are you going to sing about human sex? It seems so much of singing is tied up with sex these days. But really, that is all that you are going to sing about? That's it?

That's all you want to sing about? Jesus rose from the dead. What else is there to sing about? Should we sing about patriotism? Should we sing about those who give their lives for the nation? As noble as that is, is that really all that you want to sing about?

Say it! Say it with all of the redeemed! Jesus is my melody. He rose from the dead. He died for me. I really don't have anything else to sing about. It is not that other things are forbidden to sing about. You can sing about anything that you like. But really what else is there to sing about?

Jesus has become salvation for you. Jesus has become salvation for you. He died on that cross. He rose again from the death. As soon as Jesus comes about that grave, He became salvation for you.

You will draw water from the springs of salvation.

In that day you will say: Give thanks to Jesus. Call on His Name. Make known among the peoples His deeds. Remind them that His Name is high.

Give thanks to Jesus. Call on His Name. Pray in His Name. Make known among all of the peoples His deeds.

Make known among the peoples His conception and birth. Make known among the peoples His baptism and temptation. Make known among the peoples that He overthrew Satan. Satan did his best and Satan lost. Make known among the peoples that He called disciples to Himself. Make known among the peoples that Jesus healed the sick. Make known among the peoples that Jesus purified the lepers. Make known among the peoples that He gave sight the blind and hearing to the deaf. He walked on the water. He commanded the wind and the waves. He changed water into wine. He fed five thousand people using only two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus raised the dead. Make known among the peoples that Jesus raises the dead.

Jesus was transfigured in all of His heavenly glory. Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Jesus taught in the temple. Jesus taught the people the Word of God. Jesus instituted His holy supper. Jesus was betrayed. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was arrested. Jesus stood trial. Jesus gave no answer. Jesus was beaten and mocked. Jesus was handed over to Pilate. Jesus was sentenced to crucifixion. Jesus was flogged. Jesus was mocked. Jesus carried His own cross to the place called "The Skull." Jesus was crucified. Jesus bled. Jesus was thirsty. Jesus was abandoned by His Father in heaven. Jesus was spat upon. Jesus was mocked. Jesus forgave. Jesus endured. Jesus died.

They buried Jesus. On third day Jesus rose from the dead! Make known among the peoples what He has done! Jesus rose from the dead. Make known among the peoples what He has done. Tell them for they do not know. Tell them for it is His glory. Tell them because He did it for them. Tell them because it is our salvation.

I had opportunity just the other day. I was at the dentist. You know how they put those things in your mouth. It makes it hard to have a conversation with the hygienist. Once my hygienist found out I was a pastor she said, "Oh, I took this history of religions class from Eastern Illinois University. I found out how Christianity and Islam both evolved out of Judaism." The thing about having things in your mouth is that they keep me from blurting out the first thing that comes to my mind. It makes me think. So when the vacuum was finally removed from my mouth I asked her what I thought was an unusual question, "Did your professor teach the class from a Modernist perspective?"

"Oh yes," she replied, "the professor did not favor one religion over another."

"So," I said, "the supernatural was ruled out of bounds at the outset." She was quiet about that. My hope was that she was considering what she had learned in the class and wondering if the supernatural were involved. Finally she said, "No, there wasn't any supernatural."

“Then the resurrection is gone,” I said. “For without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead the only way to explain the existence of Christianity is to say that evolved from Judaism.”

At this point the latent Roman Catholicism in the woman finally cried out, “But everything goes back to the resurrection.” And I smiled at her.

Make known among the peoples what He has done. And guess what people. My hygienist told me that the professor who taught the class who ruled the resurrection out from the outset was a Lutheran! Make known among the Lutherans what He has done! Make known among the Catholics what He has done. Make known among the university faculties what He has done. Make known among your children what He has done. Make known among your in-laws what He has done. Make known among your neighbors what He has done. Make known. Make known. They really are sheep without a shepherd. Make known among the peoples that Jesus rose from the dead. Make known that He died for them.

Jesus appeared to His apostles. Jesus taught them in those forty days. Jesus ascended into heaven. Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. Make known among the peoples what He has done. Pray to Him. Call upon His Name. He is sitting at God’s right hand. Call upon His Name! Give thanks to Jesus. Remind them that His Name is high.

Make melody to Jesus. He has done majesty. He has achieved majesty. This is being made known in all the earth. His Name is being made known in Africa. More people are hearing His Name in Africa and coming to faith than any other place in the world. Pretty soon there will be more Christians in Africa than any place else in the world. Very soon there will be more Lutherans in Africa than any place else in the world. Even the Episcopalians are smart enough to look to Africa for their hope and leadership in the faith. In all of the world what He has accomplished is being made known. The word goes out even now.

Cry out! Shout! O member of Immanuel. Great in your midst is Jesus, the holy One of Israel!

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.