

## Week of Trinity 2

*First recite the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the weekly section of the Small Catechism. Then read the Proper and assigned Scripture reading followed by the devotion. Conclude with singing the hymn of the week.*



**Weekly Catechism section:** *What is the Sacrament of the Altar? (Luther's Small Catechism)*

**Hymn of the Week:** *Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared (TLH 306)*

### Monday - Introit (Psalm 18:18-19, 1-2, 27, 30, 49)

#### **Read Psalm 18.**

Our *Introit* comes from Psalm 18, written by David in response to God saving him from all his enemies. While he was being attacked by his enemies, the Lord was his support. The Lord is his fortress. The Lord is his salvation. But it wasn't as if God simply let David off the hook or merely got him out of a few binds. He humbled him. And he taught him. As David says in Psalm 119:71, "It was good that I was afflicted, that I might learn your Word." When God saves us he also teaches us. He teaches the humble. But those who are haughty don't think they need any instruction. This is why people avoid the preaching of the Word. It isn't because God's Word isn't relevant enough to them. It isn't because the church isn't entertaining them enough or patting them on the back enough. Those churches that pander to the masses by constantly affirming, winking, and nodding at them, are churches that do not teach. They might say, "The Lord! The Lord! Savior! Savior! Jesus! Jesus!" But they don't teach who this God is. They don't teach the humble. Instead, they feed the proud. They therefore offer no salvation. Their supper is filled with junkfood.

But God's supper is filled with wisdom and understanding. Those who fear the Lord and are humbled before him are those who know that they need God's Word. They know that their natural understanding and will is completely corrupted by sin. They know that God's wrath justly burns against such sin. So they are eager to learn how this God has shown them mercy. They aren't simply eager to get off the hook. But they thirst for understanding. When God saves us from sin and wrath through the death and resurrection of his Son, he also teaches us. He teaches us what Jesus did. He teaches us that our baptism saves us. He teaches us

that the body and blood of Jesus, which he places on our lips, give to repentant hearts the peace of forgiveness of sins. He teaches us how this Word is proven in our daily lives as we do the duties to which God has called us. He therefore teaches us to give thanks.

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## **Tuesday - Old Testament Lesson (Proverbs 9:1-10)**

### ***Read Proverbs 9.***

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. This is what we learn from our Old Testament lesson in Proverbs 9. We also hear this at the end of Psalm 111, which begins with these words: "Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation." Psalm 111 speaks of praising God in the congregation of saints who gather around his Word and meditate on his works. This assembly of saints is the banquet to which our Lord invites us to feast. And what do we feast on? Proverbs 9 says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding." This is the bread and wine of understanding. We feast on heavenly wisdom, given by God's Word. Wisdom cries out from the highest places in the city. This is what Christ continues to do. He invites us to feast on his Word and receive strength in the forgiveness of our sins and salvation.

So who are those who hear this call? They are those who fear God. Those who ignore this call are those who don't fear God. Those who make excuses are those who are more afraid of losing out on the pleasures of this life than missing out on the saving knowledge of salvation. They count God's Word as a little thing. If you are in the habit of ignoring this call from Wisdom to join Christ in the assembly of his saints, then repent of your sin. Fear God! Because he will not be mocked. But if you are one who fears God, knowing your sinfulness and your need for salvation, then come and learn from God himself. He does not turn you away. He invites you to be strengthened in your faith. He forgives you all your sins and continues to teach you what this world cannot possibly teach you. He makes you wiser than all your instructors by teaching you the fear of the Lord. So listen to his call. As surely as Christ was lifted up on the cross to save you, his voice rises up to declare to you the peace of God, which you need so much.

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### **Wednesday - Gradual (*Psalm 120:1-2*)**

#### ***Read Psalm 120.***

Our *Gradual* is from Psalm 120: "In my distress I cried to the Lord, and he heard me. Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue." This Psalm teaches us about worship, which is the theme for this week. God graciously invites us to feast on his Word and Sacraments and to call upon him in our distress. He promises to hear us and forgive us for Christ's sake. True worship therefore also includes a sincere heart without any deceit or guile. Psalm 32 says, "Blessed is the one against whom the Lord counts no iniquities and in whose spirit there is no deceit." Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 5 that we should observe the feast of unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Those in our Lord's parable who were invited to the supper gave excuses for why they couldn't come. Such excuses revealed that they were being deceitful. In reality, they didn't want to come to the supper at all.

When we worship God, we trust in him to hear our prayers and deliver our souls from lying lips and a deceitful tongue. The Psalmist describes how he has been living among godless and violent people. Good company ruins good morals. This is why the Psalmist asks that his own soul would be delivered from lies and deceit. He prays that the deceitful world around him wouldn't influence him to be a liar as well. The Father freely invites all to worship him through faith in his Son. There is no deceit in this invitation, just as there was no deceit found in Jesus' mouth when he suffered for our sins. By faith we take refuge in this invitation even as we trust in God to root out all hypocrisy from our hearts as he opens our lips to sing his praises.

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### **Thursday - Epistle (*1 John 3:13-18*)**

#### ***Read 1 John 3.***

It is good and necessary to confess the Word of God to all people in our lives, remembering that God desires all to be saved (1 Tim 2:4). But we also should not be surprised if the world hates us. If the world doesn't want to hear the Word, which you confess, and people even get annoyed at you for confessing it, then don't be surprised. Trying to please and pander to the world's desires will only cause you to turn your back on your brothers who actually believe God's Word. When Christians try to change their image in order to attract those who only want to be self-affirmed and entertained, then other Christians suffer while hypocrites are created. Christians can often fall into this trap, because they

frantically want the church to grow, or they just want outsiders to respect them. But we know that we have passed from death into life not because we get the world to like us, but because we have love for the brethren, the very ones who are hated for confessing the Word of God.

This is not a vain love, no mere lip service to the creeds of the church. This is a love in deed and truth. A Christian loves another Christian because they both confess the truth. His love is therefore not founded on self-promotion or fraternity in some religious social club. They are members of the household of God as they both confess the truth of the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures (Eph 2:19-20). Our love is grounded on the truth of Christ crucified for sinners. It is grounded on true doctrine. Those who care little about true doctrine care little about love. Beware of those who would say they love you but care little about teaching the truth! Beware that you do not sacrifice pure doctrine for the sake of the appearance of brotherly affection! Your works will bear witness to the deceit of your heart. But Christ, whose death has brought us from death to life, has given us his Word. And when this Word of truth dwells in us richly, we are clothed with love, which binds us all together (Col 3:12-16).

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### **Friday - Alleluia Verse (Psalm 7:17)**

#### ***Read Psalm 7.***

Our *Alleluia verse* comes from the last verse of Psalm 7. David wrote this psalm when he was being slandered by a man named Cush, from the tribe of Benjamin. It's likely that he was accusing David to Saul, the acting king at that time who was also of the tribe of Benjamin. Throughout the Psalm David is asking God to preserve him from those who persecute him. He speaks in terms that almost sound arrogant (Ps 7:8): "Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me." These words, which sound like he is relying on his own works and qualities, are actually words of great confidence in the work God has given David to do. Judge me, in other words, according to the just cause and noble task to which you have called me! This is a prayer with much comfort, because it sees God not only as the one who forgives our sins, but also as the one who has assigned to us our work. We should therefore follow David's example and have such confidence in the duties he has given us. Because it wasn't merely that David himself was being slandered. His office and calling as the true king of Israel were being attacked. So when you do the work God has

given you, as a father or mother, spouse, child, worker, pastor, or anyone else put in authority under God, then have confidence in your work. Because God gave it to you. When you seek to carry it out faithfully for Christ's sake, then expect the world to sneer and slander.

Those who excuse themselves from the Supper of Christ by pointing out how busy they are with their jobs and other obligations are not working for the Lord's sake, but for their own. This is why David ends this Psalm with the following: "I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High." His righteousness, won by Christ our Savior by his work in our place, is our reason for boasting. When we gather around this righteousness in the Word and Sacrament, we are given the confidence to do the work God has given us, knowing that all accusations must be silenced.

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### **Saturday - Gospel (Luke 14:16-24)**

#### ***Read Luke 14.***

The supper is God's Word and Sacraments. Those who eat of his supper are those who gather around his Word, believe it (John 6:35), and endure all kinds of hate from the world because of it. It isn't just showing up to church. It is clinging to the Word of Christ as their essential food, so much that they would lose even their own lives to keep it. Likewise, as bitter herbs, they drink the cup of malice from those who hate the gospel while they also fight against the devil and their own sinful flesh. All the while, they find their nourishment only in the Word of God, which reveals to them the death of Christ, which washes away their sins. When they find no favor in the godless world they find favor with God in the blood and righteousness of Christ. They eat and drink with one another the love of God revealed in Christ. Therefore this love unites them all as brethren.

Those who despise the invitation to the supper despise the brothers who feast there. St. John says, "He who does not love his brother abides in death." And Jesus says, "I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper." So as we should do every day, let us again examine ourselves! Do you, having the world's goods, neglect your brother who is in need? Do you love what fills your belly more than what strengthens your faith? You may not seek to destroy or sabotage the supper. But not caring about it is the same as despising those who find their only true satisfaction from it. You may be the best church-goer this side of the Mississippi, but if you neglect your brother who is in need,

then you reveal the true darkness of your heart. As St. John says, whoever hates his brother is a murderer. We must all repent of this and cling again to the Word of Christ, which covers up our sins with his perfect righteousness. This is the gospel, which nourishes our souls so that we may care for one another as we cling to the truth of our Savior.

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## 306

## Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast Prepared

1 Cor. 11: 26

Herr Jesu Christ, du hast bereit't

Samuel Kinner, 1638

Tr., Emanuel Cronenwett, 1880, ad.

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 8. 7.

Herr Jesu Christ, du hast bereit't

Peter Sohren, 1668



1 Lord Je-sus Christ, Thou hast prepared A feast for our sal - va - tion,  
 2 Al-though Thou didst to heav'n ascend, Where an-gel hosts are dwell - ing,  
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, Thou art not con-fined To an - y hab - i - ta - tion,  
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Thy pre-cious Word be-liev - ing



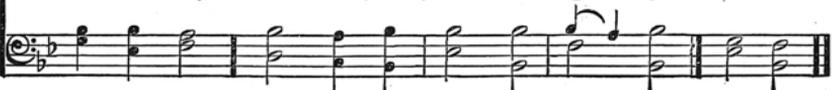
It is Thy bod - y and Thy blood; And at Thy in - vi - ta - tion  
 And in Thy pres-ence they be-hold Thy glo-ry, all ex - cel - ling,  
 But Thou art pres-ent ev-'ry-where And with Thy con-gre - ga - tion.  
 That Thy true bod - y and Thy blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - prest, We come to Thee for  
 And though Thy peo - ple shall not see Thy glo - ry and Thy  
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by an - y  
 This word re - mains for - ev - er true, And there is naught Thou



need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.  
 maj - es - ty Till dawns the Judg - ment morn - ing,  
 dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.  
 canst not do; For Thou, Lord, art al - might - y. A - men.



- 5 Though reason cannot understand  
 Yet faith this truth embraces;  
 Thy body, Lord, is everywhere  
 At once in many places.  
 How this can be I leave to Thee,  
 Thy word alone sufficeth me,  
 I trust its truth unfalling.
- 6 Lord, I believe what Thou hast said,  
 Help me when doubts assail me;  
 Remember that I am but dust  
 And let my faith not fail me.  
 Thy Supper in this vale of tears  
 Refreshes me and stills my fears  
 And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive  
 Thy Supper, Lord, our Savior,  
 And, truly grieving o'er our sins,  
 May prove by our behavior  
 That we are thankful for Thy grace  
 And day by day may run our race,  
 In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Thy consoling Supper, Lord,  
 Be praised throughout all ages!  
 Preserve it, for in every place  
 The world against it rages.  
 Grant that this Sacrament may be  
 A blessed comfort unto me  
 When living and when dying.