



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

"The other works of creation He made by the word of command alone. But man He framed by Himself, by His own hand" — Clement of Alexandria (c. 195).

Dear Saints,

Fourth Sunday after *Trinity* 27 June 2021

In truth, the more time we spend in Coeur d'Alene, the more we are charmed and alarmed. Charmed, I say, in terms of the earnestness and patriotism of the good people of North Idaho. The camaraderie and neighborliness is a throwback to the 1950s. The people here truly exude a sense of Americana that has been lost (if not reviled) elsewhere. What is more, there are tokens of Christianity and faith found on nearly every corner. Faith is alive in the Rathdrum Prairie.

But that, sad to say, is the alarming part. The content of that faith has drifted, sometimes greatly, from Christian orthodoxy. Some of what I hear and see in different corners do not approximate biblical Christianity at all. There's little deference to the ecumenical Creeds of our holy faith (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) that set the boundaries between truth and falsehood or, indeed, little to no reference to an established Confession of Faith. In other words, like the spirit of freedom that characterizes the region, a similar liberty seems to be at play with theology and Christian practice. Little seems to be traditioned.

This is where Blessed Sacrament comes into play. We should as individuals and a congregation be able to exhibit a spirit of freedom when it comes to the Constitutional rights we have as citizens of states within a Republic and, at the same time, submissive repose to the established doctrines, sacraments, and liturgy of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. It is not a sign of compromise or forfeited individuality to yield one's will to the Lord Jesus Christ who reigns in the Church through the Word and Sacraments. In fact, it is true liberty: "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5.1). We are free from contrived religion. We are free from a "do it yourself" works righteousness. We are free from cafeteria-style religious observance. "Sanctify them by Thy truth. Thy Word is truth" (John 17.17). No, in our submission to Evangelical Catholicism, that is to say, to Confessional Lutheranism, we are free from Zeitgeist religion and shifting trends and values associated with consumeristic American Christianity.

The tradition we have inherited, that is, the kingdom into which we have entered by way of Holy Baptism is joyful but sober, extends welcome but calls for likeness of mind, just as St. Paul exhorts: "complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (Phil. 2.2). Let that be the prevailing reputation among us, that we may be a stable and secure haven for those seeking something more than the conflation of Confessional subscription with Constitutional liberty.

- * NO AUGSBURG ACADEMY 27 June and 4 July.
- * Pastor will be speaking at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside, MT, Mon.—Fri.
- * Next Logos & Lager 16 July @ 7pm, Bombaro home. Topic: “Who is the Angle of the Lord?”
- * We’ll be planning a mid-September celebration on the 1st anniversary of Blessed Sacrament.

Fourth S. a. Trinity 27 June. Color: Green. Divine Service 3. Processional 512. Hymn of the Day 617; Psalm 138 chanted responsively at distribution; Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 655. Sermon: Romans 8.18-25, “Creation Renewed.”

Fifth S. a. Trinity 4 July. Color: Green. Divine Service 3. Processional 832. Hymn of the Day 834; Psalm 16 chanted responsively at distribution; Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 837 Stanzas 1-4. Sermon: St. Luke 5:1-11, “A Fishing Story.”

June 27	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 50:15–21	Psalm 138	Rom. 12:14–21 or Rom. 8:18–23	Luke 6:36–42
July 4	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19:11–21	Psalm 16	1 Cor. 1:18–25 or 1 Peter 3:8–15	Luke 5:1–11

NB: Epistle will be 1 Cor. 1:18:25.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John

Λόγος (Logos)
 &
Lager
 Theological Talk for Thirsty Men
FRI. 16 July @ 7pm
 7766 N Westview Drive, CdA
 Presentation & Discussion:
“Who Is the Angel of the Lord?”
 Beverages provided.
 ΔψΩ (Jn 19:28)