

A Sermon for Immanuel Lutheran Church—Westfield, Wisconsin 53964

A Sermon for St. Paul, St. John, and Trinity Lutheran Churches—Newton, Budsins, and Mecan, WI

Sermon Goal: That the hearer may always give God the Glory.

Sermon Theme: Giving God the Glory.

Sermon Title: The Lord's House

Liturgical Date: Transfiguration

Other Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Luke 9:28-36

Visuals: None

Sermon Text: Hebrew 3:1-6

Calendar Date: March 3, 2019

Series: C / 3 Year / LSB

Sermon Structure: Narrative

Greeting: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Text: Our text for this Transfiguration Sunday is from the Book Hebrews the 3rd Chapter and is read as follows: "Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." This serves as the basis for this day's meditation, in Jesus' Name. Amen!

Salutation: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Introduction: Last week we talked about following God. We talked about listening to His Word, and doing what it says. We also talked about "Building" the church, weeding out as it were the idolatry and unclean things that have crept into the church. We talked about how much sin there is in the world. We also talked about how much more God's mercy abounds, especially in the lives of those who are His. God's 'house' needs rebuilding. So where do we start?

Transition: Looking at the text for today, we find the answer to our posing question: "How can I rebuild the Church". The answer may surprise you.

Sermon: Nonetheless, if you will, consider your home for a moment. How many rooms does it have? 5, 10, 15? Maybe it has 20, 25 or even more? Does it have a foyer? A kitchen? A living room? What about a bathroom? A Sun Room? Does it have a bedroom? Maybe your house has more than one of these kinds of rooms, a den, a porch, a library or maybe even an office?

Now consider your house in greater detail. In your kitchen, are there built-in appliances? Does it have cabinets and shelves? Does it have a stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher? What about your living room? Does it have adequate space for people to gather? Does it have an entertainment center? A built-in theater? A big screen TV? A Fire Place? Does your bathroom have a shower, whirlpool tub, a double sink vanity with mirrors? Does your house have a Game Room? A Wine Room? A Hidden or Secret Room?

What about the rest of your home? Are there enough electrical outlets? Are there enough lights and windows in it? Is the carpet and tile, just right? What about the décor? The Pictures? The Woodwork? The Furniture? Does your home, your house, have a hot tub, jacuzzi, sauna or exercise room?

What am I getting at with all of these questions??? To show you that your house is a system of pieces put together to function together. In order for those pieces to work in coordination, they were planned and constructed to fit together. Weather your home is simple or extravagant, it functions for a purpose, just as it was designed to. The church is no different! A home or a house describes and reflects the person who dwells in it.

You see, any builder, like any creative person, has their own way of doing things, their own style or signature touch, so that anyone looking closely enough could distinguish that builder's work from that of another. In our Epistle text, the author of the letter to the Hebrews raises the question: who, in their right mind, would give the finished product more glory than the builder? What about you?

Nevertheless, a home, a house, is designed and constructed for its master to live and dwell in. The house or home in our epistle reading certainly isn't talking about a material house or home. In fact, the text is talking about a home or a house that is your heart. A place where the Lord wants to live and wants to dwell within.

You see, the problem is we like sin. We like to give ourselves a pat on the back for all the good things that happen. We want to take credit for the successes that we have in life. We don't want to associated with each other when things go bad. But from our text, we discover that isn't right. That isn't how God wants it. To give glory to everything and everyone else is wrong. God's doesn't want it that way! He is deserving of more glory and honor than anything or person.

You see, we can't give glory to ourselves for the achievements that we make in this life. Our lives are not our own. We belong to the builder, the designer, the creator of all things. Rebuilding the church starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with us by having Jesus taking procession of our hearts. Rebuilding the church begins with Christ transfiguring our heart, instilling in it an attitude of servitude and gratitude. God desires Glory, all the Glory, for He is indeed the creator and builder of all things.

Our life is like our house. We are created in Christ Jesus to do good things. We are baptized into Christ. We have been given the blessing of the Holy Spirit. And God has paved the way for the one who is coming, the one who would deliver us from sin, death and the devil. But this cannot happen with a harden heart towards God, each other, or His church. Jesus is to be counted worthy—worthy of more glory than anything else or one in this world.

You see, Jesus came into the world for this purpose: to live and dwell within your heart, and to free you from the bondage of sin. He came as your Maker to make you pleasing to Him again. As God's Son, shown through the events of the transfiguration, Jesus went from that mount to the mount of Calvary, carrying the cross, the instrument upon which your sins and mine would be forever blotted out. Christ is faithful over God's house. He took your sins and mine to the cross, and He died there, taking our punishment in our place. This is why we give God all the glory. For He is our builder and our maker. He is the one who built everything, and we are his house, a place where He dwells.

Conclusion: My dear friends in Christ: Let Jesus live and dwell in your hearts. Don't fight it! Let him create in you a clean and new heart. Let Him decorate 'His house' which is your heart the way in which he wants too, so that He may live and dwell in it forever!

Just love one another. Do so as Christ has loved you. Let Him take procession of heart and mind, so that we can begin rebuilding the church, without dissention, and or barriers. The church needs rebuilding. May we begin this task by submitting ourselves to the Lord, praying for His Will to be done, and giving glory to the one who deserves it, and that is Christ. In His Name. Amen!

Doxology: And now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, enable you to invite, and to welcome Jesus into your heart, so that we may begin at once the rebuilding of His Church. Amen!