

7th Sunday of Easter

Revelation 22:10, 22:5 6-2-19

“I Am the Easter Alpha and the Omega!”

- A. So what is “extreme”?**
- B. The Book of Revelation is a little like that...**
- C. We bring the Easter Season to a close with an extreme invitation:
“Come...”**

A Luther Sermon Quote: (Luther wrote in 1527 about the importance of hearing and reading the Word as follows.) *To the enthusiasts [the radical reformers] the printed word is a dead thing. But Johns says: “I write to you”: for Scripture should serve the purpose of a letter, should be a means and a vehicle through which to come to faith and life eternal...Listen to Christ: “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word: (John 17:20a). The “word” here certainly means the spoken or the written Word, not the “inner” word. [by “inner word” he means the personal inner revelations of the radical reformers they are brought to the Church as coming from God] Therefore the Word, should be heard and read above all else. It is the vehicle of the Holy Spirit. When the Word is read, the Holy Spirit is present. (Plass, What Luther Says, 4724, p. 1462)*

Day of Pentecost

John 14:8-17, 25-27 6-9-19

SUBTLE AND INTIMATE

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you” John 14:26

Introduction: Five stories on which to reflect.

We were created to live in relationship with the living God. Humankind's deepest need is to know God and live in that relationship.

- +That relationship was broken and continues to be broken by sin.
- +The Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – all have a role in restoring and maintaining our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit's role is often subtle and intimate as is seen in each of the five examples cited. The Holy Spirit is most likely active in our lives in the same way.

Luther's Explanation 3rd Article of the Apostle's Creed

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Martin Luther, *The Small Catechism*, Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN. 1979, pages 14-15.

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### **The Holy Trinity**

**John 16:12-15                    6-16-19**

**A MYSTERY TO CELEBRATE**

*“...the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.”*  
*Colossians 1:26*

Introduction: What is the difference between a “mystery” and a “puzzle”?

The doctrine of the Trinity is more a mystery to be celebrated than a puzzle to be solved.

- Scripture witnesses to the mystery of the Trinity.
- We are included in the mystery of the Trinity.
- Celebrate the mystery of the Trinity!

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### **We Must Believe the Holy Trinity**

*“Now if this article seems foolish, what do I care?....Since I see that it is so distinctly contained and grounded in Scripture, I believe God more than my own thoughts and reasons and do not worry about how it can possibly be true that there is only one Essence and yet that there are three distinct Persons in this one Essence: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. To argue about the truth of this doctrine is out of place. To determine whether this doctrine is grounded in God’s Word is indeed in place. If it is God’s Word, do not be frightened. God will not lie.”*

Edwin Plass, *What Luther Says*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959, #4468, pages 1388-1389.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Isaiah 65:9      6-23-19**

**“I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.”**

**A. God knows his spiritual inheritors...do we know who we are?**

**B. God knows that he's leaving us...do we know what that is?**

**Jesus said, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you...” (Matthew 6:33)**

**A Luther Sermon Quote:** (Luther wrote in his exposition on Isaiah 65: 1 in 1532); *Religion is the best of all human activities; yet it is damned if it does not rely on the Word of God. For God will not be sought by our efforts; in fact, it is utterly impossible to find Him by our efforts. Therefore, putting aside speculations about His majesty and casting off our own works, we should apprehend the Word or rather be apprehended by the Word. And apart from the Word we should speak, think, and hear, nothing about God. For God wants to lay the first stone; He is successfully sought and found when He knocks at our hearts through the Word.* (Plass, What Luther Says, 4453, p. 1383)

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21      6-30-19**

**“Then the Lord said to Elijah, “Go...”**

**A. Some of the background for this Old Testament text.**

**B. As long as God is saying “Go...” there’s hope for the future.**

**A Luther Sermon Quote:** (Luther wrote in his exposition 1 Kings 19): *There has always been a church, there has always been a people of God, from the first human being, Adam, til the last. To be sure, at times the church as so very weak and scattered that one could see it nowhere. Thus it was in the times of Elijah, when the impious king Ahab had forbidden the true worship of God and had cruelly killed a large number of prophets so that Elijah complained that he alone remained of the servants of the true God. The church was at that times so hidden that no one saw it*

*but the eyes of God, who said that He had preserved seven thousand who had not bowed their knees unto Baal (1 Kings 19:18). Plass, What Luther Says, 327, p. 281)*