**Jesus – Named To Bleed For You!**

**Luke 2:21**

Circumcision & Name of Jesus

12.31.2022

`Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

One verse, one lowly verse of Scripture is our Gospel lesson for this evening. *And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*

That name Jesus is important. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he also knew it was not his child. How would you feel if you found the woman you were engaged to was pregnant – and you ***knew*** it was not your child she carried? By Levitical law, her life was forfeit – all he had to do was say the word, and she would be stoned. Instead, he was simply going to end their betrothal.

It was as he was considering this decision that an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, *“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

Jesus is the name given to the enfleshed second person of the Trinity, very God of very God, the Son of God. He is given that name on the eighth day, the day that He is circumcised.

I pray you realize all that is contained in this one verse of Scripture, and all it has to do with God’s purpose in giving you this holy Child as the first and foremost of all Christmas gifts. Even more fitting that this text and this sermon take place on the cusp of another new year.

This is eighth day language. Beginning with the first day of the week, the eighth day is the first day of the next week. The eighth day was the day commanded by God for circumcision, it is the first day of the new week – the first day of the new life as one in covenant with God.

Jesus was crucified on Friday, and rose on the third day, or Sunday. What day of the week is Sunday? It is the first day after the Sabbath, it is the first day of the new week – or it is the eighth day of the week previous.

Baptized into Christ, we are all made a new creation, born again of water and the word. The eighth day is the day of the New Creation lived out in the life of the Christian, the life of those resurrected with Christ. You are buried with Christ through baptism into death, that as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might walk in newness of life.

How can this all happen, you wonder? After all, we are still in trespasses and sin?

That is what our text is all about. Why was Jesus circumcised? To fulfill the Law. In Genesis, God commanded that all males shall be circumcised on their eighth day. Jesus fulfills the Law for all by being circumcised. His obedience to the Law involves the shedding of His blood by the knife of the priest. Without sin, Jesus becomes the sin bearer, taking humanity’s place under the Law with His circumcision.

God’s Word about this will be brought up in tomorrow’s Epistle and sermon, But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, bornof a woman, born under the law,to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Gal. 4:4-5)

You and I are under the Law, it is binding upon all mankind of every age. Yes, it was given to Moses on tablets of stone, and thought to be only for the Jews, but that was just the written form. It was given to Moses and the Israelites that it might be recorded for all men.

But God’s Law is also written on men’s hearts. No matter where you go in the world, and whether they have heard of Christ or not, every culture has some of the same basic “rules” by which they are governed. You do not take what belongs to another, you do not murder, you do not take another’s spouse, you must honor your parents.

But not just in relationships with other people. As much as many do not want to believe it, there is a belief in some greater power – an innate Law written on the heart which says that you must be obedient to and believe in God. People all over the world believe that when things go bad they have angered God. Even those claiming they are atheists believe in karma – that if you treat people well you get good back, and if you treat them bad, you get bad back. Who do they think is out there balancing those good and bad scales? It just randomly happens?

God’s written Law took the Law written on men’s hearts and focuses it on its main purpose – Jesus. God’s written Law exposes disobedient mankind, to show how all are unable to fulfill it. It is in showing how we are unable to fulfill it, to show us our helplessness under His Law, that the Law moves us to look for help elsewhere. Jesus! God’s Christ.

In His circumcision, baby Jesus sheds His blood for you and for me. He sheds His blood in obedience to the Law to forgive us for our disobedience to God’s Law. Jesus’ obedience to the Law fulfills the Law for all humanity. In His circumcision, all people are circumcised once for all.

As His blood is shed, Jesus is given the name uttered by the angel, “Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins – from their disobedience to the Law.” On His eighth day, Jesus’ person and work – His divine purpose and holy work, are revealed in His name and His circumcision.

Consider how this is connected to the eighth day. Circumcision took place on the eighth day. Jesus was raised from the dead on the eighth day. After Christ’s resurrection, the Church began gathering for the Breaking of the Bread – the Divine Service – on the first day of the week, or the eighth day, the day of the new creation.

Examining Scripture, The Last Day is often called the eighth day, the first day of the new heavens and the new earth.

Dear beloved of God, Jesus’ blood was shed to free you from sin, for there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. In His circumcision, see and know that your Savior from sin and death was born to shed His blood to set you free to be made new in His image, perfect and holy and blameless.

As you enter this new year, rejoice that God placed Himself under His own Law and fulfilled it for you. Jesus talks about circumcising our hearts and not our flesh. God directs Paul to speak out stating that circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing.

Colossians explains how this all comes together. *In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.* (Col. 2:11-14)

I do not know how your 2022 went. I do not know all the trials and tribulations you suffered in 2022. I do not know what you wish would have been different in how you treated others or how others treated you in 2022.

I do know this, everything that caused pain, sorrow, or grief is the result of sinfulness – sinfulness in us, in others, and in the world. Into this world Jesus, God’s Christ was born, to fulfill what we and others fail to fulfill. That is why He subjected Himself to the Law. To put your sins away is why He died, so He might bury them in His tomb. And He rose on the third day – the eighth day – to give you new life.

I cannot promise that 2023 will be any better than 2022. We still live in a fallen world, a world corrupted by sin – in bodies that still struggle with, and succumb to, sin.

I will tell you that God died and rose to give you a new life – it is there in His name, Jesus. Jesus who saves His people from their sins.

Jesus gives you a life that rejoices in receiving forgiveness.

Jesus gives you a life that gives what you have received to others.

Jesus gives you a life that will not end, that will endure for all eternity, for as He rose from the dead, so also shall you.

Jesus gives you a new life to live here and now, knowing that while still under the Law – He has fulfilled that Law for you.

Now enter 2023, knowing that Jesus bled for you, so that you may live a life of joy and peace. Amen.