

Some of your neighbors have their Christmas lights, trees up, décor up already. If you've done this, you have issues. Don't tell me, I don't want to know, but you need to schedule a counseling appt. with Pr. Burgdorf. Your mother was right, patience is a virtue. All of us in various ways are impatience people. We want instant gratification for certain things, lines can't be too long, we need answers now, news now, responses now, impulsively click on things, want things fixed now, delivered now, Amazon is too slow. No one really wants to wait. But we are a waiting people, that's what Christians are. We wait, we wait for the Lord to act, to work. We wait for Him to come back and end it all.

Don't be impatience. Well, you can be impatience to confess that long Creed, Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday, that's okay, but recall, you confess with the Church throughout the ages: **Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this...** then at the end, **Those who have done good will enter into eternal life, those who have done evil into eternal fire.** Like today's Gospel. **Good to eternal life.**

So who is good? They ask that to Jesus too. He replied. **There is only One (God) who is good.** Rom. 3: **None is righteous, not one; there's no one who does good, not even one.** Psalm 14, 53: **All have turned away, all are corrupt; there's no one who does good, not even one.** Isaiah 64: **we are all unclean, all our righteousness as filthy rags.**

So who is good? Certainly not you. Sure you should be good. But really, you're a mess. Be honest. Do not think any your sins are harmless. No one goes to heaven, not one person goes to heaven because they're good, did enough good things. It's certainly not up to your goodness. And that, is of greatest comfort for you.

So who is good? Look to His Word, Look to His cross, Look to your baptism. In baptism as Jesus died, you died, when He's buried, you're buried, when He rose, you rise to newness of live, covered with His righteousness. Sadly, yes there are those who reject His grace, His baptism, live and desire to be goats.

So who is good? In Christ, you are. St. Peter writes, **We are waiting for new heavens, a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** He asks, while you're waiting, **What sort of people ought you to be? ...to be in lives of holiness, godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God. Since you are waiting, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, at peace.**

Forgiven, You bask each day in the Lord's righteousness as you wait. God help us all to live act like it. Live like it. Live repentant. Do good. Your good works matter. Whether it's changing a dirty diaper, taking out the trash, saying something nice, on and on. Your good works matter. Not necessary for salvation, but our Lutheran Confessions bluntly declare **good works are necessary**. For this is what it means to wait, yearn for the new heavens and the new earth. We don't wait in despair or passivity, but rather, we wait in victory and in expectation, with the joy of good works!

Work, fight, struggle to do good as you're waiting. Your good works matter. You're the very reason that the sun rose today. All of this is for you. You are the reason the earth still spins, the sun rises, until the last baby baptized, last name written in the Book of Life. Your presence here, along with the good works foreordained for you yet unperformed, from the foundation of the world, hold back the destructive angels and evil. In the eyes of your neighbors, peers you may be insignificant, unimportant, but the face of your angels are always toward your Father in heaven. And you are His dear sheep. See what Jesus points to in His sheep as evidence of their faith. They're not sheep because they did good things, they did good things because they are His sheep.

What was that you confessed in the Nicene Creed? I look, I look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Not just believe it, but look forward when Lord returns in glory, new heavens, new earth. What happens that day isn't a surprise, it's the Good Shepherd keeping His Word.

When the Lord speaks of His return in glory, He wants you comforted, encouraged, yearn for it. He is coming to make all things new. The burdens of sin, a broken creation, assaults of the devil, enemies against His people, the Church is over. This day comes as our deliverance, our rescue, vindication, the victory ours.

Rejoice. You will hear: **Come, O blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

Until then, be fed, welcomed, clothed, visited in His Holy Word, Sacraments. Joined to Him in a kingdom without end, to give you more forgiveness, more righteousness. Then go out as Christ works through you in service to feed, welcome, clothe, visit others, as if you were doing it to Jesus. Always think that. Be filled with Him, His forgiveness, His works as you wait. **Since you are waiting, be diligent to be found-** repentant, forgiven, His righteous people. You are a saint. You matter and your works. You belong to the King. He is coming back to claim His own. What a great, glorious Day it will be! **Come Lord Jesus, come quickly!**