

Jesus is perfect keeping the Sabbath. The whole purpose of this day of rest is for people to stop their work to focus on God's work, His creation, worship. The Pharisees failed to see in Jesus, it's God working. OT Sabbath, not just ascribed by God as a day of rest of the first creation, but God adds meaning it pointed to a greater rest in the Christ, new creation, God's ongoing work. It's receiving the Gospel, **Come to me all you who are weary, burdened, I will give you rest.** In the wake of His sacrifice and resurrection, bringing forth the new covenant; the NT Church, as with the Catechism 3rd Comm. meaning, the Sabbath, no longer Saturday, but everyday. In the Christ, His work, preaching repentance, forgiveness. So keeping the 3rd Comm.: is not your work by coming to Church, but coming to receive His work, here in this place, His desire, come and rest in His gifts.

Everyone who exalt Himself will be humbled and He who humbles Himself will be exalted. Many will think, teach this is of your actions, perhaps throughout your life have heard this as all law: How you should have better table etiquette, better playground manners, home and workplace manners. How pride goes before the fall, be humble, don't go first. While all that's true -that's not the main point Jesus' making. He's speaking foremost of Gospel. He, the one exalted, humbles Himself to death while you -unworthy, nothing of yourself, what was that you said, a poor miserable sinners, deserving but temporal and eternal punishment -are exalted in Him. Luther famously calls this the "blessed exchange." He takes your sin, pride, self-exaltations and gives you His holiness. **Everyone who exalts Himself will be humbled; He who humbles Himself will be exalted.** His humiliation for our exaltation to have a place at table- not for you to choose a place but for Him to honor you with a place, given to you by grace.

This lesson, a great statement of our reality, of what sinners have in Christ, -is also a stern warning. The Law part. When Jesus says to humble yourself, He's calling you to repentance.

Humble, warning how your pride can destroy faith and love. We think 'my way is best. If you don't listen to me, I can't wait to say, *I told you so*. Sure, nobody's perfect, but I'm almost always right. I'm a better driver than most, my ideas are much better. I'm wiser, make fewer mistakes than most people. You can relate to this.

But there's more to it than that. Being humble means suffering injustice. And we aren't good at that. That's why we get upset when someone steps on our toes, if no one notices your sacrifices, or properly responds to your media post. Why we're upset when others get noticed for their work and ideas and we're unappreciated and ignored. We love to point fingers. We're so intolerant of others mistakes and shortcomings, and so forgiving to ourselves the few times we slip-up. It's why you still get angry, upset of how people have wronged you from the past, that's your pride.

And pride goes before the fall. You complain for yourself -because you think you've of earned things, you deserve things, deserve to be treated better, because you think I'm good people, nice and don't stink. Stop it. As our Lord teaches to turn the other cheek is to suffer injustice, that's truly humble.

Jesus being lifted up on the cross, the greatest humiliation that world has ever known. He did not come to be exalted here. He did not come so you could be exalted to make a name for yourself. He didn't come so all your problems go away now, you no longer struggle, have all kinds of success and dreams come true. He came -to be a sacrifice for you. This is who He is, why He comes. A sacrifice for your sins. Humbled upon a cross so you can be exalted with Him for eternity. He suffers injustice on our behave without complaint, truly humble, for no other purpose that you're taken care of each day and be exalted in His kingdom.

A Lutheran Father said, a quote I've always had on the wall of my study, *the greatest things that can happen in this world is the humble preaching of the gospel and the simple administration of the Sacraments. For in only these, the means of God's grace comes to us and the hidden reign of Christ is consummated. We are nothing. He is everything. And that means that the terrible sin of pessimism, is finished with as well. It's nothing but doubt and unbelief, for Christ is just as present in His means of grace today as He was in the 16th or 1st century. And 'all authority in heaven and on earth' is just as much His today as it was when He first spoke that promise to the apostles, it remains so into all eternity. Do we still believe this?*

Many long for exaltation, greatest in the Church in other ways than humble liturgical worship in Word and Sacrament -can't be found. Many want greatest in life more than what our Lord gives us here -doesn't exist.

The whole scene, Jesus eating with sinners, the braggart Pharisees because He loves them, wants to save them, warn them. He loves not just popular sinners, but the worse sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes; also the prideful, the ungrateful, the selfish, the self-promoting, which means He loves you, that by grace alone, you walk worthy.

God help us. Great Epistle reading, to walk worthy. It's worthwhile to note historically Oct. 12. Today 533 years ago Christopher Columbus landed in our hemisphere. Yes there are things of his life to criticize; die in obscurity, almost no one attends his funeral and in our day he's labeled a monster, yet he's a Christian hero. He comes to spread Christianity with exploration, to find a new trade route to India due to Muslim violence, he wrote if his exploration brings wealth to use it to help Christians persecuted by Muslims. He doesn't get rich but his ships land upon a war between 2 Indian tribes and he will join the moral group, fight with Indians against a very evil tribe. He devoted his life for Christ and His church, to walk worthy.

75 years ago today, the Nuremberg war trials began. One of our Lutheran pastors, Pastor Gerecke serves as chaplain to the most hatred men in human history, who conducted the most evil this world has known, chaplain to Hitler's commanders. This Missouri farm boy become pastor, will catechize 21 of these exalted men, changed from being Hitler's wolves to humble lambs. They received absolution from the Lord, the holy Supper for life immortal. When news broke Pastor Gerecke was being sent back to his wife he had not seen in years, the names of these German generals who commanded such authority, signed a letter pleading a MO farmwife to let her husband stay to provide pastoral care. She responded to her husband, "they need you". That speaks volumes of sacrifice. Then one day, after holy communion and rite of commendation of the dying, one by one at the gallows they look at Pastor Gerecke and cry "Lord have mercy on me." Pastor responds, I will see you again in paradise. And they were roped from this world into another. Men made humble by Christ, called to move up higher to the unending feast. Pastor Gerecke died 64 years ago last week has seen them again.

Soon, He will say to you, **Friend, move up higher**. Your place at the wedding feast in heaven. As you await that day, our Lord invites you to come, rest your soul keep the Sabbath at His table. Come, take the lowest place, that is, come in humility, repentant sinner before God. No one comes to the Lord's Supper any better or higher than another. All are unworthy to take part in the feast. Feast upon that which you cannot earn. Take your place as He cleanses you of pride, feeds you His grace. For here the Lord bestows to you the greatest honor that heaven has to offer. Joining you to Him in the forgiveness of sins.