

20th Sunday after Pentecost
“The Sweet Taste of the Gospel” (Hebrews 2:9)
October 6 2024
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost is from our Epistle reading, Hebrews 2:9.

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

So far the text...

Cooking competitions are very popular, whether they be a BBQ competition, a shrimp dish competition at the island or a cake competition. Have you ever watched a show on TV where the culinary artists are given the ingredients, a certain amount of time to create their masterpiece, and then the judging to see who is the winner? Have you ever thought, I'd like to be a judge to taste what they've made?

You can't do that through the TV, of course. You can only imagine. You have to be there in person to actually taste the final result. Growing up, did you hang out in the kitchen hoping to get a little taste of the frosting from the spatula that mom used to spread on the cake?

God tasted human food and drink. He didn't just look down from heaven and vicariously taste food through the humans He created. No. God came down from heaven and became exactly like us, a true man, but without sin. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels. God humbled Himself and took on our flesh. Why? To taste our foods or be a cooking judge of our foods? Well, Jesus certainly hungered, and He ate food. He multiplied bread and fish, and He created the best tasting wine!

But, Jesus came for the express purpose of tasting the most awful, bitter taste that this sinful world could offer – death. Jesus tasted the suffering and anguish of death of death as Psalm 22 details.

**“I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a
potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of
death.”**

And on the cross, Jesus closed His eyes, gave up His spirit and tasted no more. Why? Why would Jesus, the Creator of the Universe, Almighty God, subject Himself, lower Himself, humble Himself to such torture and pain? Because mankind had tasted sin, desired to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and literally tasted the fruit that resulted in the taste of eternal death.

There was no other way to remove this ghastly taste and this extreme parched tongue that the rich man in hell pleaded to Abraham for a drop of water, than to taste this death Himself. Jesus had to become a true Man, a sinless true Man to take sinful man's place on the cross. And He tasted death for everyone – our text says!

He tasted your death and my death and everyone's death who is listening to this live stream. Why? So that we would never ever have to!

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

Jesus, the Creator, perfectly suffered all punishment for our sin to the end...to bring many sons to glory!! To give all mankind the taste of glory!! There is not one person on earth that Jesus didn't taste death for.

And because He did this, there is no longer any shame between God and man. The next verse of our epistle declares this truth!

“11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,”

Brethren, brother! Jesus is not ashamed to call anyone His brother for He has made all people holy by His precious blood. All the world are redeemed...every single hopeless sinner.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:19:

“18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

And after Jesus’ tasting of death and burial in the tomb, we hear the good news from the Savior that He has won the victory over death for the world. So Psalm 22, quoted here in Hebrews 2 continues with the good news of the resurrection.

“You have answered Me.

22 I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.”

Jesus rose and declares to the world, “Peace be with you!” And He even tastes some broiled fish to show the disciples that He is truly alive!

What does that mean for all people? Our epistle from Hebrews continues with these comforting words.

“14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

Again, Jesus shared our flesh and blood, because it was the only way to destroy the devil who has the power over death! Jesus tasted death to release us from the bondage of the devil, and release us from the fear of death!!

When we were utterly lost and terrified of eternal death, Jesus came to our rescue...came to our aid! **“6 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.”** He came not to save the evil angels but to save the seed of Abraham ...lost mankind.

Jesus came to make the perfect offering for our sins once and for all. So our epistle describes this most wondrous work.

“17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people”.

Jesus had to do it, be like us in every way except without sin, for there was no other way. What mercy and faithful and trust Jesus showed to offer the supreme sacrifice of Himself, the High Priest upon the cross...for the sins of all people!

Does Jesus not know the sufferings of your soul, the temptations of your soul this moment? He knows them all for He suffered them all and now, yes now, comes to your aid.

“18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

He comes to your aid with His comforting Word.

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:1-3)

And in Jesus great mercy, He gives to His body of believers, His very body and blood, in with and under the bread and wine for the remission of sins.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Where there is remission of sins, there is no fear of death. **For we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26**

When we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus our brother at His table we proclaim that He tasted death for me, so that I will never taste death. So Jesus promises to all people in John 8:51:

“51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

Instead, Jesus promises us a heavenly banquet, a grand wedding feast!

“See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”

All is ready! For Jesus, our Brother, has prepared this feast, the most delicious eternal feast of glory that we have ever tasted! By His tasting of death for everyone, He has been crowned with glory and honor! Amen.

“And this peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)