

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

“This age ... and that age”

Luke 20:34-38

November 9, 2025

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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 this 22nd Sunday after Pentecost is from our Gospel reading, Luke 20:34-38.

“34 Jesus answered and said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. 35 But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. 37 But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ 38 For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him.”

So far the text:

This and that. That’s a phrase we often say to describe inconsequential things. How did your day go? “Oh, a little of this and a little of that.” Nothing too noteworthy.

What did you talk about on the phone for an hour? “Oh, a little of this and a little of that”.

Which one do you want to buy? This one or that one? The blue car or the red car? Which cake do you want to pick for the wedding? And a special tasting session is set up to make all the choices of cake and food and decorations. This and that. It’s part of this age...all the different choices we make on a daily basis.

In our Gospel reading, the Sadducees present Jesus with an extraordinary hypothetical of a woman who married seven brothers because who in turn each died without producing an heir. Who is she married to in the resurrection?

Well, Jesus answers their question in all seriousness because it is a weighty consequential matter about whether or not one will first of all be resurrected to eternal life and not eternal death. Jesus speaks about a serious this and that.

This age and that age. This world and the world to come is what Jesus is speaking. It's not to be treated with exaggerated hypotheticals as the Sadducees were doing – who didn't believe in the resurrection...who didn't believe in the coming age.

And the Thessalonians in our epistle reading were confused also about when the coming age was to begin. They thought they were living in it already. No, says Paul we're still in this age of the vale of tears. We're still fighting evil. The revealing of the Antichrist still is to come. The lawless one who **“opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”**

This age and that age. Everyone is part of this age. There is marrying and giving in marriage all the time among believers and unbelievers. So also Jesus reminded His disciples in Matthew 24 that His coming which will begin that age will be like the days of Noah.

“37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Matthew 24:37-39

The key question is, will you be saved like Noah and his family and enter heaven when the Son of Man comes? Jesus says that one must be counted worthy to enter that age.

35 But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

In Scripture we hear of many who readily acknowledged that they were not worthy we hear in Scripture: John the Baptist who was not worthy to untie the Lord's sandals, the centurion who was not worthy that Jesus should come under his roof. Just say the word and my servant will be healed.

“10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” Matthew 8:10

And last week we heard the story of Zaccheus who was a known sinner and the people were appalled that Jesus would come and stay at his house. What was Jesus response? Salvation has come to this home. For Zaccheus believed in Jesus and received the cleansing of his sins, Christ’s worthiness, Christ’s riches.

What makes one worthy to enter heaven? The righteousness of Christ received by the gift of faith! We heard yesterday in Terrence Schroeder’s memorial service God’s Word from Revelation 7:

“Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

One’s worthiness comes from God, not one’s works as the Antichrist leads people to believe. It is by grace alone as Paul says, through faith.

“9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.” 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

That’s the key. So you believed. So you believed in Jesus as your Lord. So, Abraham believed. So, Noah believed and it was counted to them as righteousness. The just shall live by faith! Made worthy through the worthiness of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ!

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” Revelation 5:12

For Jesus is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the God of the living. For He is the Resurrection and the Life. Moses asked God in the burning bush in our Old Testament reading who He was so that he could tell the children of Israel. God’s response? “I am who I am”. He is the eternal God who always was, is and is to come.

And Jesus tells the Jews in John 8: **“58 “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”**

Jesus equates Himself to the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob. But they wouldn't believe Him and instead picked up rocks to stone Him.

One cannot be counted worthy of the age to come unless one believes that Jesus is the great “I am”. Jesus said many times:

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51); I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12); I AM the Door of the Sheep (John 10:7, 9); I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14); I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25); I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6); and I AM the True Vine (John 15:1, 5).

It is Jesus who elects you from this age of sin and death, and calls you be the Gospel that He is the Savior of all people! Believing His Word, you receive His righteousness, His worthiness, His resurrection, His life, His Holiness as reflected in the angels...like the angels you will be in that age. For by faith in Jesus you are now called a son of God, a son of the resurrection!

What beautiful sure promises Jesus extends to you me as we go through the daily “this and thats” of this age. You have received the greatest “this” to hold onto :

“1 Peter 1:25

But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

And this word is accompanied by His sacraments of forgiveness. This sacrament of water and the word **“now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” 1 Peter 3:21**

And in the Sacrament of the Altar, Jesus says to us: “This is My body given for you. This is My blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

Word and Sacraments – thanks be to God! They give you Christ's worthiness for that age to come! Amen.

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