

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
“Come who thirsts, for Jesus is coming quickly!”  
Revelation 22:17,20  
June 1, 2025  
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 this 6th Sunday of Easter Sunday is  
from Revelation 22:17, 20

**“17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!”  
And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

**18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If  
anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this  
book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God  
shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the  
things which are written in this book.**

**20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”  
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

So far the text:

Water...it's so indispensable to preserve physical life. I was talking with a man on Friday who was putting up a fence. The fence didn't get finished because, unfortunately, he took himself to the emergency room for severe dehydration. While he was there, he heard that there were quite a few others who had experienced the same debilitating effects.

The coach of our softball team constantly reminds the young girls to drink water between the innings because he doesn't want to have to take anyone to the emergency room. God graciously gives us physical water to quench our physical thirst and keep our bodies well.

But, we need water not just for our bodies, but especially for our souls. Our text says it is the “water of life” that needs to be drunk by our souls. It is indispensable for our souls. It is what all parched souls, thirsting because of one's sins, must drink or perish eternally.

This water of life is the Gospel – the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega who gave His life on the cross, conquered death by His death, and rose from the dead to victoriously give life to all who would believe in Him.

There is no other living water, but to be connected to the IV of Jesus Christ's eternal love for you! And that is why we are gathered this morning, in God's house, in the emergency room, for each of us has recognized the signs of our spiritual dehydration. We have been led by the Holy Spirit to heed the warning signs that we have expended much energy trying to keep God's law perfectly, but have not succeeded.

With repentant hearts we come once again to receive spiritual healing for our dry, sin stained souls – to God's house. As our Psalm for today, Psalm 27, exclaims:

**“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”**

The one thing, the one absolutely necessary thing, is to dwell, to have life, connected to God, through His Word, inquiring of His Word of life, beholding the beauty of the Gospel in His temple all the days of my life. In all the days of my troubled, sin filled life, there is the water of life for all to drink – God's Word and sacraments.

Did you ever think of God's house as an emergency room? Well, God is the doctor who heals us, and connects us to the IV of Himself, the water of life as we hear His word and receive the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Yes, God's Word is life giving. It is indispensable for it not only creates spiritual life in Jesus but preserves it. In Jesus' prayer as He speaks to His Father in our Gospel reading from John 17, we hear Him speak of the life creating Word.

**“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”**

“Through their word”...through the hearing of God's Word, the Holy Spirit creates faith in a dry heart to believe in Jesus, the Son of God, who is one with the Father. And when this miracle of faith is given by the Holy Spirit, the soul is refreshed and hydrated with

life...Jesus' love and forgiveness. And an amazing thing happens. The believer becomes united with God, one with God as Jesus and the Father are one!

We see therefore how important it is that the pure word of God be preserved and not altered. Because through it alone, Sola Scriptura, God gives life. So John is told very clearly in our epistle reading these words:

**“These words are faithful and true.” And...“Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.” And... “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”**

God's Word alone is faithful and true and therefore must not be sealed. For faith comes through hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If someone were to add to or alter God's life giving Word, and so hinder others from being saved, this is so deplorable that one would lose one's part in the Book of Life.

It must be proclaimed because Jesus promises that He is coming quickly. Judas Iscariot had to be replaced with another apostle who had seen the risen Lord Jesus so that the life-giving Word could continue to be preached and God's people be joined, united, into the Holy Christian church, the Bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, as we have been hearing in the previous chapters of Revelation these past Sundays. God's church, His people, is built on the foundation of the God-inspired teaching of the apostles and the prophets of the Old Testament. God's people enter through the New Jerusalem through the 12 pearly gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Old Testament and New Testament people are united as one with Jesus as the Chief Cornerstone!

Jesus is coming quickly. There is no time to waste to give life-giving water to thirsty souls. What a joy it is for us to see God's Spirit working in the life of Dio Hernandez, Jaclyn's fiancée, as he is led this morning to receive the water of life through baptism.

Yes, God uses simple water with His powerful Word to give a life giving fountain of water that never runs dry, but continues to give life, forgiveness and eternal life. Baptism seals our faith and promises us victory, eternal victory in Jesus!

For Jesus to win this victory for us, He thirsted on the cross. Physically spent in pain and agony, He thirsted. And even more severe was the thirst He felt as He carried all our sins. For there was no relief for the His parched soul as He cried out, “Father, why have You abandoned Me?” Jesus’ soul experienced the absolute desert dryness of being separated from His Father’s love. Jesus did this so we would never experience such an eternal death in hell.

And to further quench our soul’s thirst, Jesus graciously gives us His very body and blood to eat and drink in the Lord’s Supper. What beauty we behold in Jesus’ love for us in the Lord’s Supper!

**“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”**

And one day, when Jesus comes as He promises, we will dwell with Him in heaven in His very presence, where there will be no need for a temple. For He Himself will be with us and we will behold His glory in person.

This is Jesus’ prayer for all of us as we heard in the Gospel reading to which our Father answers yes, Amen.

**“24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”**

Come quickly, responds God’s people. Yes, come quickly we each fervently say. For we desire to behold the glory of heaven which we know only in part right now. We desire to see what John saw in his vision:

**“a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”**

No more evil, sin, suffering, tears, sadness, thirst, or death...only eternal blessedness, eternal happiness.

**“7 “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

**“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”**

Blessed are you believing and baptized people of God who have receive the robe of Jesus' righteousness through faith and have the right to now eat freely of the tree of life, Jesus Christ...and soon, when Jesus comes, enter into eternal glory to dwell with all the saints and our bright Morning Star!

Yes, come quickly Lord Jesus! Amen.

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