

Midweek Advent 3
December 16, 2020

“God’s wisdom of Jesus’ birth - revealed to Joseph and you” (1 Corinthians 1:30)

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LSB 353

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Light of the world! Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today’s text for this third midweek Advent service, is from tonight’s third reading from 1 Corinthians 1:30.

“But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption”.

Here ends our text.

Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians, by saying that not many of you were wise according to human standards, influential, or noble by birth.

God is not anti-intellectual. He is the author of all wisdom and knowledge, also that which is purely secular.

Have you ever been humbled by a youngster who shows you how to do something on your phone? Have you ever struggled with something only to have someone who knows how to do it make it look so easy?

Human wisdom, which is devoid of the wisdom of the Gospel, is always looking for something new, ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth, and never giving lasting and sure comfort.

God’s wisdom, revealed in His word, is the wisdom that every person needs for it is centered in Christ Jesus as our text says. It gives what every person is lacking and can only be found in Jesus that is righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Jesus became this wisdom for us. What does that mean? He became a true man to take upon Himself the sins of the world.

Paul says, **“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;”**

Who would have designed something as foolish as the Son of God becoming one of His creation, taking on our flesh, and being born in the humblest of settings. There was not even room for Him in the inn. No room for God? The world sees that as weak. The world can reserve a room at the click of a button with all the amenities that one desires...room service if that’s what you want.

“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a [i]stumbling block and to the [j]Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God

It requires faith to trust that this Son of a humble carpenter is the Savior of the world. And that’s the way that God planned it, because only He can give saving faith.

One’s social status or family tree, whether it can be traced back to a duke or duchess doesn’t matter. Because God chooses. God calls. God gives. Saving wisdom is of God. It belongs to Him.

And God in His wisdom chose you! “But of Him you are in Christ”. He chose you when you were an enemy of God in captivity of sin. So Paul says in Colossians 1.

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

So we learned from the Small Catechism in the 3rd article to the Apostles Creed that in God’s wisdom He has called me by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.”

I can't do it or take any credit for the faith God has richly given to me through baptism. He's revealed the righteousness of Christ to you and given it to you through faith. You may not have any standing in this world but you have the highest standing with God! For He sees you as His child through faith and heir of the kingdom of heaven.

God chose simple things to give us His riches. Simple water. Bread and wine. Foolishness to worldly wisdom. Eat Christ's body? Christians have been accused of being cannibals. Foolishness, but God's wisdom to us.

God chose simple fishermen for His apostles. Not many of you are noble. Some but not many. That pretty much describes us doesn't it. And we thank God for it! Everything that man would do is just the opposite of what God would do. Yet, this is wisdom. God's wisdom is the wisdom of the incarnation, the wisdom of Christ Crucified and risen. And His wisdom includes you. Chosen, called, justified, redeemed, sanctified. God did it all!

What's left to say? Paul concludes, **“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”**

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