

MINISTRY BY MAIL
Lutheran Conference of Confessional Fellowship
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Eighth Sunday After Trinity, July 26, 2026

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(Hymns found in The Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1941)
Hymns: 375:1-4, 375:5, 432, 372, 392
Lessons: Daniel 6:10-23; Romans 8:24-30; John 4:1-14.
Text: Romans 5:1-5:
Sermon by Pastor M. H. Eibs

Dear Fellow Confessors of Christ:

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,” Rom.6:23. This passage tells us that we truly deserve death in hell because we have sinned, but that God is gracious to us for Jesus' sake. Because of what Jesus did for us as our Substitute God is gracious to us. This grace in Christ is universal. It applies to all people because Jesus died for all. To all sinners God declares that Jesus ***“was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification,”*** Rom. 4:25. Another passage: ***“There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus,”*** Rom. 3:22b-24.

This precious Bible truth is not accepted by human reason, but alone by faith. We believe it because God says so in the Bible. Here are some passages which speak of the role of faith. ***“We maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”*** Rom. 3:28. God ***“justifies those who have faith in Jesus,”*** Rom. 3:26.

When we by God's grace believe that we are justified by faith, there are precious blessings that result. We want to learn today about

THE BLESSED RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH.

- 1. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;**
- 2. We are in a state of grace;**
- 3. We rejoice in hope of heaven's glory; and,**
- 4. We rejoice also in our sufferings.**

The Apostle Paul writes: ***“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** In order to appreciate this, we must think of what we all are like by nature. We are spiritually dead in transgressions. In his sinful state, man is at enmity with God. He counts God as his enemy. There is a bad feeling between him and God. The Bible says: ***“The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God,”*** Rom. 8:7. In this sinful condition there will be no peace with God. ***“‘There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked.’”*** Isaiah 48:22. It is man who is at fault. He disobeys God's holy commandments. The holy God cannot simply overlook that sinfulness on man's part. Sin rightly makes God angry, for he is perfectly holy and just.

So, how could peace between God and man be established? God made a plan of salvation for sinful mankind. This plan included sending a Savior to this earth so that God and sinners could be reconciled through the Savior's work of redemption. Paul writes: ***“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us,”*** Rom. 5:8. It was Jesus' work of redemption that changed man's relationship with God. Now, there is no more wrath and anger on God's part because of man's sin. Man is no longer at enmity with God or separated from God because of sin. The sin has been taken away. It has been paid for in full by Jesus. Jesus kept the entire Law of God perfectly for us, and he suffered and died and shed his holy, precious blood to take away our sins. So we speak of Jesus as our Savior because he saved us from our sins. We speak of Jesus as our Redeemer because he paid the price to buy us back from our sinful condition and from Satan's power over us.

We speak of Jesus as our Mediator, our Peacemaker, because he reconciled us to God. The Bible teaches that ***“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them,”*** 2 Cor. 5:19. There is now no more bad feeling or enmity between God and the sinner for Jesus took away the sin. Now there is peace between the person who has been justified by faith and God.

Another blessed result of being justified by faith is that we are in a state of grace.

2

Through Jesus ***“we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.”*** Let us be sure to understand the word grace. It means God's undeserved gift of love and mercy for Jesus' sake. Everything that has to do with our salvation is by God's grace. It is summed up in these words: ***“Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved,”*** Eph 2:3-5.

When we say that we are in a state of grace we mean that we now have a gracious God. He wants us to be saved. He did everything necessary that we might be saved. Paul writes: ***“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us,”*** Rom. 5:8. God also did everything necessary that we might be brought to faith in Jesus by providing us with what we call the Means of Grace. That means is the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Through these means God the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts and preserves us in the true faith.

Our text says ***“we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.”*** We now have a gracious God who delights in us as his dear children. He is our dear Father and we can come to him in our prayers. He graciously invites us to come to him with all our requests in good days and in evil days. So we exclaim: “What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!”

There is another blessed result of being justified by faith that our text speaks of: rejoicing in hope of heaven's glory.

3

Paul says: ***“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”*** We as believers in Christ already have heaven as our sure possession. True, the enjoyment of heaven's glory is postponed as long as we live. But when we die we shall experience it. That's why the Bible says: ***“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on,”*** Rev. 14:13. We rejoice in that hope because we can look forward to heaven's glory with full expectation that it is ours. Thus we sing in our hymns: *“I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home.”* (The Lutheran Hymnal 660) *“I know not, oh, I know not, What joys await us there, What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.”* (The Lutheran Hymnal 613)

We cannot possibly know what heaven's glory is like until we experience it. There will be no more sin in heaven and no horrible results of sin, no tears, no troubles, no sufferings. We shall see God as he is. He will display all his attributes to us, his glory and majesty, and his love will be showered upon us to the fullest extent. All that puzzled us here, all that went beyond our understanding, we shall know fully in heaven. The result cannot be otherwise than that we will have fullness of joy, pleasures forevermore. No wonder that our text says we rejoice in this now! There is no reason for us to be gloomy or dejected, no matter what troubles and sufferings we have here. We have so much to look forward to.

There is yet one more blessed result of being justified by faith that our text speaks of. We also rejoice in our sufferings.

4.

Here on this earth we experience so much suffering. There are tribulations and trials in this sinful world. Unbelievers hate us and ridicule our Christian faith. This sinful world has become more and more a place where life is hectic as we experience the pressures of everyday living. As we write this (January 2003!) we are perilously

close to war and terrorists have changed our way of life in many ways. This world is a place where we are tempted to fall into sin. The devil never lets up in trying to deceive us and cause us to fall away from the faith. We daily struggle with our own sinful flesh which is so woefully weak. It gets so bad that we long for relief, for the time when it will all be to an end and we are taken to our home in heaven.

But let us not think that God has forsaken us when we go through these sufferings. Far from it! He himself permits these sufferings to come upon us and for a very good reason. He puts our faith to the test so that it will become stronger. Paul explains in our text: ***“We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*** Sufferings and tribulations and trials are good for us because they produce perseverance. Then we can bear the load of our afflictions without complaining or faltering. Then we become brave and continue our life without becoming discouraged. Perseverance in turn produces character. We become like hardened soldiers who have been put to the test and not found wanting. And character in turn produces hope. This hope is sure. We will not be lost in eternity but shall at last enter the eternal bliss of heaven. And this hope will not disappoint us. It will not prove to be a false hope, but will become a reality. We are sure of this because of God's love. God's love is poured out upon us abundantly through the Holy Spirit who is given to us. God, the Bible says, ***“has given us the Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come,”*** 2 Cor. 5:5. The Holy Spirit is given to us as soon as we come to faith, and then he continues to dwell in our hearts with all his gifts for our salvation. He strengthens our faith and enables us to lead a sanctified life as God's dear children. And so we also have the sure hope of heaven's glory.

Let us not forget that the Holy Spirit works in our hearts only through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. The more we hear and absorb the Word of God, letting it fill and control our thoughts, words and deeds, the more the Holy Spirit works in our hearts. The Gospel in Word and Sacrament assures us that our sins are forgiven, that we are God's dear children, and that heaven's glory is in store for us.

Now we can understand that all our sufferings, trials, and afflictions are good for us and so we can rejoice in them even as we suffer. The fatherly hand of God is recognized in all these sufferings, and we are more and more assured of his love for us. So, let us rejoice in all these blessed results of being justified by faith. Let us not go around as gloomy people on the verge of despair. God is with us. Heaven's glory will soon be ours to enjoy. So we can also say with the hymn writer:

*“To join the glad, triumphant band!
Make haste, my soul, forget all sadness;
For peace awaits thee, joy and gladness,
The perfect rest is nigh at hand.”* (The Lutheran Hymnal 615:4)
Amen.

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