

“He Remembers Your Sin No More”

Luke 1:54-55

Tonight, as you have heard me say a number of times over the years, we get to participate in one of my favorite worship services. I get to say again and again, “In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” To which you will respond with your “Yes, let it be so” in the ancient word “Amen.”

We are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit just as we were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Tonight is a reminder that our baptismal garment is every day wear. It is not just for Sunday mornings or fancy occasions or formal gatherings. Tonight we are reminded once again that the forgiveness of sins is real and Christ has given His church the authority to speak His word of forgiveness to you; His word of promise that He remembers you sin no more; and that you are now and for all time clothed in His perfect righteousness.

We are clothed with it when we step foot in the grocery store, walk in the woods, and enter our place of work, even if your job is to shovel manure in a barn – you are clean. Mary says in her Song of Praise, “He has helped

His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” The child in Mary’s womb is proof that God remembers His words of mercy – His promise to Adam, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

He has remembered His words of mercy. At the same time, He remembers your sin no more. You are clean. God has promised that by grace you have been saved through faith and your Baptism was a washing of renewal. A fundamental change took place. You went from death to life. And now, through our confession of sins and the words of absolution, the forgiveness of sins received in our Baptism is revisited. Every day we are wrapped in that Baptismal garment and reminded that we have been given the name and adopted into the family of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the God who relented of His anger even when the Israelites disowned Him and worshiped the golden calf. This is the God who, as Mary sang, did not forget her father Abraham and was merciful to Israel and all of Abraham’s offspring.

This is the God who kept His part of the covenant made with Moses. This is the God who established a new and better covenant by sending Jesus Christ into the world as the babe at Bethlehem and eventually as the Lamb at Calvary. This is the God who forgives us our wickedness and remembers our sins no more, because we walk the earth in our everyday wear – the robe of righteousness given to us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.