



Risen Savior Lutheran Church

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I know what you were thinking today on the way to church. Today is the day, this Sunday, this 1 time, the entire church year, we get to say that long creed. You couldn't wait to confess the long one.

A great mystery, Scripture's teaching of this Triune God, revealed as I AM, even Jesus speaks to Moses in burning bush, the incomprehensible God made known in the incarnation of His Son, the God who blows His Spirit-breath through His Church and raises the dead to life. We don't fully understand this mystery, we simply confess what Scripture reveals.

How sad the indifferent, minimizing Christian. They'd say that creed is fine and well, but too long for people today, needs to be more relevant, let's just celebrate the love of Jesus, make it to heaven, not get bogged down in differences or doctrines.

Would you go into a restaurants and when they came to talk your order, just say, *I don't care we you bring me, just bring food. I need to eat to stay alive, I don't care what food it is.* Or would you go to buy a car, and say, *I don't care what make or model, don't care about gas mileage, or the price, I just want one that runs and will get me from point a to b.*

No, but Christians are quick to settle for less. *That church is closer, I have friends who go there. Oh there're Bible based Christians and going to heaven, or I like the style of worship, more entertaining, not caught up in traditions, but just love and celebrate Jesus.* No. It matters what we believe, what the church teaches. Faith isn't about just eating anything to keep you alive, or that gets you from point a to b. What we believe, teach, confess matters because it's God's Word. And that matters. That's no small detail. Why we do what we do, because it's of Scripture. We cannot do otherwise.

St. Peter said, **Save yourself from this crooked generation.** Could've been talking about today. We live in changing times, right before us. Even now when we must confess God's truth and endure the consequences for it.

Even on the secular level, consider our founding fathers of the nation, who signed the Declaration of Independence. An amazing history of how most all loss their possessions, endured great hardships, some loss their life to stand for what is right.

Even more the confessors of the Augs. Con., the confession noted on Lutheran churches like our throughout the centuries. Laymen standing for

God's truth and suffered the consequences, endured hardship, some lost their life.

When Luther preached against Rome, against his prince Frederick with his relics. He risked his life too. He knew what they can do. And we certainly didn't want to start a new church. Maybe he was naïve but Luther expected people to be convinced by the Word of God, so he was at least as foolish as he is brave. We should note the Lord created faith in Prince Frederick. Without Prince Frederick, Luther would've been destroyed like some before him. In one way the most important figure of the Reformation is the layman Frederick or the whole thing would have stopped before it really began. But this is nothing new.

Even more. Peter walks into the crowd that yelled **crucify Him** and call them to account for it; he knows what they are capable of. The apostles, no longer cowards hiding, but embolden by the Holy Spirit to preach. The Lord creating faith.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship to the breaking of bread and the prayers. That's the Church: the place where the Spirit works thru Baptism, the apostles' teaching, doctrine; the breaking of bread the Lord's Supper –and “the prayers.” Note St. Luke doesn't say they're devoted to “prayer” but “the prayers.” “The prayers” is the liturgy, the earliest liturgies not unlike how we worship today. God breathes into his Church with the breath of his Spirit, the Words of Scripture and the Church breathes back out what God has given her to breathe. This is why we worship how we worship: we're simply living out the holy words of Scripture,

Why we sing out every Sunday before the Sacrament, **holy, holy, holy.** The song of heaven Isaiah records, as God comes to bear His sacrament.

But while the angels sing in heavenly bliss, Isaiah cries out in terror: **Woe is me! For I am lost; I am a man of unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.** Isaiah thinks he's dead. He's read Exodus, Lev. He knew what happened when unholy sinners came into contact with a holy God: You're dead.

That old cliché is wrong: it's not your eyes that are the window to your soul; it's your lips. The lips reveal what your heart believes. **Woe is me!** We should take sin more serious, as serious as Isaiah, as serious as death, before a holy God.

Sin's power twists our minds. We see ourselves as very different from others. We're better, or we're worse than everybody else. We alternate between puffed up and feeling sorry for ourselves. Rules and boundaries don't always apply to us. We have good reason for our selfish actions. Unclean people, unclean lips.

Until we sober up about ourselves, who we are; what we do to others, hurt and pain will continue to shape our relations.

Woe is me! Repent. What are sinners to do before this holy God? **Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal from the altar. Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, your sin atoned for.**

A messenger sent to set the prophet to free him from sin bearing the Word of absolution and sacred act from the altar. a live coal. No ordinary coal. For where there's a burning coal, there's a sacrifice; where there's a sacrifice, there's forgiveness; there's I AM himself, to reveal and give His holiness. What He did for Isaiah; He does for you.

Isaiah had the coal. You have the Lord's Supper, the live coal of Jesus sacrifice; His very body and blood. A messenger of I AM sent, to set you free from sin, bearing the Word of absolution and touch your lips from His altar. Your guilt is taken away. Your sin is atoned for. Dead to sin and alive in Christ.

He knows your struggle to believe, to do good, to be fair, to tell the truth. He knows how hard the task. I AM who comes for you, takes something that is filthy, wretched, unworthy, selfish. He comes for the lost. And you are clean. Forgiven. Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided unity; for despite your many sins, He still and always loves you. And you are holy.