Jesu Juva

**Mid-Week Laetare**

Text: Psalm 118:27-29; Colossians 2:13-14; St. Matthew 27:50-51

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It is appointed for all men, both evil and righteous, to face death and die. This is so, because the soul of every man, woman, and child, indeed, the entirety of creation, suffers the consequences resulting from the curse of death inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve.

Yet when the righteous die, unlike the evil who die in unrighteousness and are given over to destruction and eternal death, they may commit their spirits into the hand of their merciful Father in Heaven even as did our Lord Jesus, not through any merit of their own, but through the all-atoning Blood of Christ.

You see, death is the direct result of sin, even as God has said of Adam’s original sin, *“in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die,”* and as the Apostle, Saint Paul, wrote to the Christian congregation in Rome, *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned….”* Adam sinned, death reigned, and the whole of creation groaned, suffering the pangs of death.

On the other hand, life comes as a direct result of the atonement, the pouring out of Christ’s lifeblood as an atoning sacrifice on the Cross to save us. Through His death Jesus put our sins to death having nailed them to His Cross. *“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”*

Therefore, the Cross was not the eternal death of Christ who was indeed raised from the dead after His three-day rest in the tomb, it was the death of sin—your sin, my sin, all sin. This means that sin and the grave no longer have any hold over you. You are alive in Christ, having died with Him through Baptism and having been raised with Him in His resurrection.

You see, in Christ Jesus we have been crucified; in Jesus we have died and were buried, and in Jesus, we are raised up to new and eternal life. For in Christ, all have died, and all are risen through faith in the all-atoning sacrificial Blood Jesus poured out on the Altar of the Cross—Blood covering every sin of every man, every woman, and every child—Blood poured out on the Mercy Seat of God to cover over every demand of the Law of God—the Law which requires your death in payment for your sin.

Our Lord took on the flesh of His creation to save mankind from the curse inherited from Adam. You see, the price of the atonement, that is, the price of our forgiveness and salvation, was far more than we could possibly pay, for it required a perfect, spotless, and therefore, sinless, sacrifice. Having taken on our flesh and though sinless, having died in our place, Christ, through His atoning Blood has sanctified the flesh of all believers and restored to us the image of God, reconciling our relationship to our Father in Heaven. In Jesus, human flesh and blood, our flesh and Blood, became the Flesh and Blood of God, and God and man, through Christ, are now reconciled.

Let us then cling to the Flesh and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us hold fast to His perfect sacrifice and remember all that He has done. Hold fast to Christ who has saved you and in whom you are raised from the dead righteous and holy. Hold fast to Jesus and renounce sin, Satan, and the world, for in this renouncing is the death of death—your death, my death, all death—and in holding fast to Jesus is your resurrection to eternal life.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Raymond D. Parent II

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