Jesu Juva

**Midweek Rorate Coeli**

Text: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; St. John 5:24-30

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

Jesus needs only to speak, and the dead will come forth from their graves. This is not some sort of cheap magic trick, it is no illusion, it is not slight of hand. No, Jesus is the Prophet promised in our Old Testament text this evening. But more than that, He is the Christ who speaks in the Name of God, His Father, and even the dead cannot resist Him. He speaks the Words given to Him by God and the corruptible are raised, and those who have heard and kept His Word are raised to incorruption.

This Jesus is the One promised to our first parents. He is the One appointed to crush the head of the serpent. He is the One looked for by all the faithful. This is He whom kings and prophets desired to see and hear, and He comes bearing His gifts of life and salvation. The salvation He brings, is the salvation He obtained for you in His bloody battle on the Cross of Calvary. The life Jesus gives is the life God, the Father gives. It is the life first breathed into Adam. It is eternal. It is His life. For Jesus is Life, and that Life is the Light of men.

For most assuredly, I say to you, everyone who hears Jesus’ Word and believes in the Father, who sent Him, *“has everlasting life and will not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”* It is that simple. We hear. We believe. We live.

What of those who hear, but refuse to believe? What of those who insist on their own interpretation of what they hear; those who demand to go their own way? Or what of those who refuse to hear at all? God’s answer is clear, *“And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My Name, I will require it of him.”* We are to heed the voice of Jesus, whom God has sent to be our Mediator and our Redeemer, the One whom God sent to speak in His Name. Whoever will not hear the Word of God spoken by Him, and those He sends in His stead, will face God’s terrible wrath.

But Jesus’ first Advent is not about wrath; His first Advent is about redemption. He comes to save those who cannot save themselves. He comes to save you and me. Jesus comes, full of grace and truth, speaking the Word and doing the will of the Father. The Father’s will is that Jesus not lose one of the little ones the Father has given to Him. So, Jesus speaks to us the Words of His Father and we who were spiritually dead in our sins are brought from death to life.

That is what Jesus means when He says, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”* You have already passed over. Jesus pours the Word of His Father over you in Baptism, drowning you in His Blood poured out in sacrifice on Mount Calvary. In this, you die with Christ, and are buried with Him in His tomb. When Jesus was raised on Easter morning, you were raised with Him to a new life, but your sins Jesus left buried in His grave. So, you are no longer dead. Jesus’ Word has made you alive!

*“As the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.”* Just as the Father breathed His life into Adam, so Jesus pours His Life into you. Into your sin parched mouth, He pours His life. For as it is written, *“The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”* Onto your sin dried tongue, He places His holy Flesh given for you and the life of the world. With these he lifts you out of the grave, redeemed from sin, death, and Hell.

What Jesus has done for your immortal soul; He will do for your mortal body. *“For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth.”* Jesus will speak and your grave shall be opened and with your own flesh you will see God.

Jesus is no mere man, He is the Son of God, fully human and fully God. He is the Deity Incarnate, God in the Flesh. What He speaks carries the full authority of the One who sent Him. He speaks only what the Father has given Him and in turn, I speak the Words He has given me to say in His stead and by His command. And what are those Words? The most beautiful utterance of the human tongue; *“I forgive you all your sins.”*

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Raymond D. Parent II

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Crestview, Florida

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