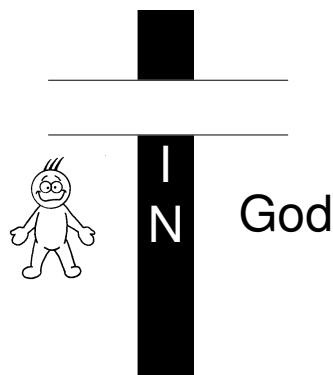


2. _____ Makes God Accessible!



What did Christ do to enable us to have access to God?

1. _____
 - ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. _____
 - ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

3. Access to God Gives Us _____!

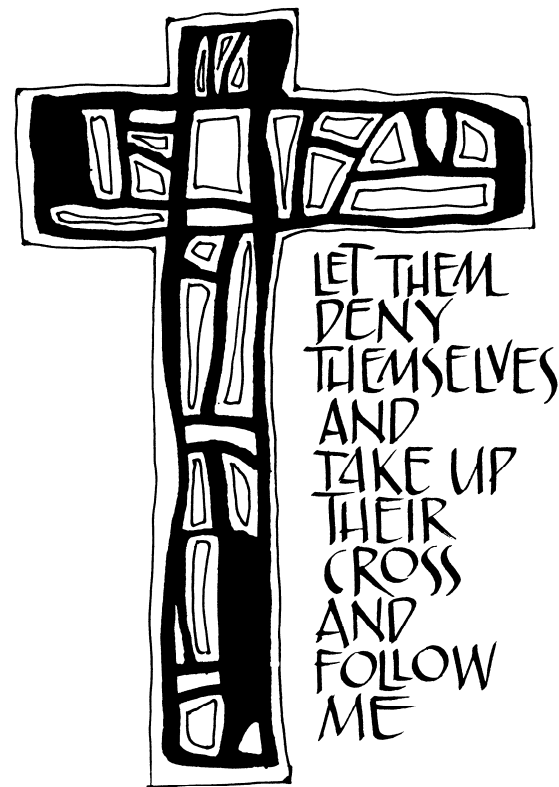
Describe how each produces the next.

Suffering works perseverance...

Perseverance works character...

Character works 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.



M A R K 8 : 3 4



Second Sunday In Lent

MARCH 8, 2009



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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PERKS OF THE PASSION: ACCESS TO GOD!

Good morning! As we continue in the season of Lent, it is only natural to reflect on the cross of Christ and its impact in our lives. This morning we are reminded of the wonderful “perk” we have because of Christ’s payment, namely, access to God. Marvel that we as sinful human beings can stand before the almighty, perfect God...and live to tell about it. Only, because Christ suffered and died to give us free access to the throne of God.
May you marvel at God’s grace for you once again this morning!

Opening Song..... “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”
Christian Worship Hymn 452

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.

**MESSAGE NOTES
MARCH 8, 2009**

**“Perks of the Passion:
We Have Access to God!”**

What prevents you from gaining access to some places?

READ Romans 5:1-11

1. _____ Makes God Inaccessible!

In what ways were the OT believers reminded of the inaccessibility of God?

What things were required to gain access to God?

Who had access to God?

Agree or Disagree: All have access to God today.



God

What is the reality of what sin does to our access to God?

- *Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

M: God invites us during this season of Lent to come before him with repentant hearts seeking his forgiveness and his strength to turn from sin and amend our lives. As we stand at the foot of the cross and gaze at our Savior suffering for us, let us confess our sins to him.

C: **Dear Lord Jesus, it is for our sake that you suffered under the hands of the rulers and the soldiers. It is for our sake that you allowed them to nail you to the cross even though you could have walked away. It is for our sake that God the Father laid on you the iniquity of us all. It is with repentant hearts that we fall before your cross pleading, "Lord have mercy on us sinners." It is with humble hearts that we ask you to hear us as we confess to you.**

Silence for personal confession.

M: The thief on the cross asked Jesus to remember him when he came into heaven. Jesus did. The soldiers and religious leaders sinned unknowingly against Jesus, yet Jesus said, "Father forgive them." It is the same mercy and grace that Jesus now gives to you. For sins, known or unknown, he speaks to you, "You are forgiven." For comfort and certainty that your sins no longer separate you from God he says, "You will be with me in paradise." Receive this promise of forgiveness with a heart of faith in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* **AMEN**

M: With hearts cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, let us respond with joyful praise!

Song of Praise “The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me”

Choir: Verses 1 & 2, Congregation: Verse 3 *Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 749*

This hymn examines the true nature of God’s grace. While human love is directed toward people and things that bring pleasure, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. (Romans 5:8)

Verse 1

The love of Christ, who died for me Is more than mind can know,
His mercy measureless and free To meet the debt I owe.
He came my sinful cause to plead, He laid his glories by,
For me a homeless life to lead, A shameful death to die.

Verse 2

My sins I only see in part, My self-regarding ways;
The secret places of my heart Lie bare before his gaze.
For me the price of sin he paid; My sins beyond recall
Are all alike on Jesus laid, he died to bear them all.

Verse 3

O living Lord of life, for whom The heavens held their breath,
To see, triumphant from the tomb, A love that conquers death,
Possess my heart that it may be Your kingdom without end,
O Christ who died for love of me And lives to be my friend.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1991 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) AMEN.

BE SEATED

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and forever. Amen.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,	

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 44

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “Christ, The Life Of All The Living”

Verses 1, 6 & 7

Christian Worship Hymn 114

Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe --
Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou has suffered great affliction And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me.
Thou didst choose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore,
Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing, For thy bleeding and thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Friendship Registers

Offering

Prayer of the Church “Lord, You I Love With All My Heart”
Christian Worship Hymn 434

Lord, you I love with all my heart;
I pray you ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share;
Heaven itself were void and bare
If you, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break,
My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought;
Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my
God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Lord, let at last your angels come;
To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me
That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face,
My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my
prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.

Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave
My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place
May glorify your lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile;
Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me
To bear my crosses willingly.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my
God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

FIRST LESSON
GENESIS 28:10-17

“The ladder that Jacob saw in his dream giving him access to the throne of God was symbolic of Christ who gains us access before God.”

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

PSALM OF THE DAY

“Unto the Hills” Choir

SECOND LESSON
MARK 8:31-38

“Jesus points out to us all that the way of the Christian is the way of the cross.”

³¹He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Continued on next page

³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Hymn "In Christ Alone"
Christian Worship Supplement Hymn 752

This christological hymn summarizes the sacrificial, earthly life of our Savior and the glory that is now his forever and ours through faith.

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
 This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

Verse 2

In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
 This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
 For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

Verse 3

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
 And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Verse 4

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
 Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.

KID'S CHURCH

Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him
Children ages 3 years to 2nd grade

**PERKS OF THE PASSION:
 WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD!**

Romans 5:1-11
Pastor Mike Geiger

STAND

Statement of Belief Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED