

# Daily Meditations

**For the Sixty-Fourth Biennial Convention of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
July 31–August 3, 2017  
Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wisconsin**



*Our Great*  
**HERITAGE**  
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Convention worship reflects the great Solas of the Reformation and recalls comments from the conclusion to the sermon in the opening service.

What would it be like if your congregation became known in your community as the church that's known for proclaiming the radical grace of God? The church that serves grace neat. Other churches preach grace, but it isn't alone. They preach faith, but require a decision. They preach Scripture, but think it says too little about modern times or far too much. They preach Christ, as a way, not as the One and Only. **Let us be the church of God's great Alones.**

Tuesday morning – Grace Alone

Wednesday morning – Faith Alone

Thursday morning – Scripture Alone

Closing service – Christ Alone

# Sola Gratia

August 1, 2017

8:30 a.m.



*Our Great*  
**HERITAGE**  
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Leader: Pastor Douglas Tomhave  
St Paul Lutheran Church Lake Mills, WI

**HYMN** (next page)

CW 384:1-4

## RESPONSES

M: In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;

**C: in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.** *Psalm 5:3*

M: We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,

**C: but because of your great mercy.** *Daniel 9:18*

M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

**C: establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.** *Psalm 90:17*

M: Let me live that I may praise you,

**C: and may your laws sustain me.** *Psalm 119:175*

## READING

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV

<sup>378</sup> We are not arguing with the adversaries about a small matter. We are not trying to make a fine distinction when we find fault with them for teaching that we merit eternal life by works, while faith that takes hold of Christ as Mediator is left out. <sup>379</sup> For there is not a syllable in the Scholastics about this faith that believes the Father is reconciled to us for Christ's sake. Everywhere they hold that we are accepted and righteous because of our works, completed either from reason, or certainly worked by the inclination of that love they speak about. <sup>381</sup> ... It is boasted that good works please because of grace and that confidence must be put in God's grace. Here they understand grace as a habit by which we love God. It is as though the ancients meant that we should trust in our love, even though from experience we know how small and how impure it is. It is strange how they ask us to trust in love, since they teach us that we are not able to know whether it is present. Why do they not present the grace, the mercy of God toward us? While they are at it, they should add faith. For the promise of God's mercy, reconciliation, and love toward us is not grasped unless by faith. <sup>382</sup> With this view they would rightly say that we should trust in grace, that good works please because of grace, when faith takes hold of grace.

## MESSAGE

Ephesians 2:4-10

You Have Been Saved

# LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**C:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## BLESSING

**M:** May the grace of the Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil; may Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies; may Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love; and may his peace abound in our hearts.

**C:** (spoken) Amen.

## HYMN

CW 384:5



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound - less;  
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior,  
 3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise  
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble,  
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing;



My soul, be - lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver  
 Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -  
 When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan  
 In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -  
 In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - jice. For though I



at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er  
 cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your  
 plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is  
 spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is  
 know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -  
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -  
 seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -  
 o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -  
 Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.  
 lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.  
 hend God by his grace to you did send.  
 cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?  
 flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

# Sola Fide

August 2, 2017

8:00 a.m.



*Our Great*  
**HERITAGE**  
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Leader: Pastor James Hoff

St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church Livonia, MI

## HYMN

CW 403:1-2

1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus  
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan  
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve you; Though per - se -

Christ, my God and Lord; And this my faith con -  
seeks by night and day To rob me of this  
cu - tion, grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver -

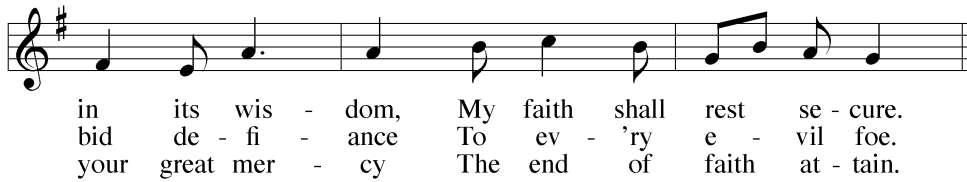
fess - ing, Un - moved I stand up - on his Word. Man's  
trea - sure, And take my hope of bliss a - way. But,  
whelm me, Let me a stead - fast trust re - tain. And

rea - son can - not fath - om The truth of God pro -  
Lord, with you be - side me I shall be un - dis -  
then at my de - par - ture, Lord, take me home to

found; Who trusts in world - ly wis - dom Re - lies on  
mayed; And led by your good Spir - it, I shall be  
you, And let me there in - her - it All you have

shift - ing ground. God's Word is all - suf - fi - cient,  
un - a - fraid. A - bide with me, O Sav - ior,  
prom - ised me. In life and death, Lord, keep me

It makes di - vine - ly sure, And, trust - ing  
A firm - er faith be - stow. Then I shall  
Un - til your heav'n I gain, Where I by



M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

M: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,

C: **we lie and do not live by the truth.**

M: If we claim to be without sin,

C: **we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

*1 John 1:5-8*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

C: **Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for personal examination and confession.*

## ABSOLUTION

M: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

*1 John 1:9*

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## READING

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article III

<sup>9</sup> We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God.... A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own. This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness.

<sup>10</sup> These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the Holy Gospel. Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. <sup>11</sup> This faith is God's gift [Ephesians 2:8-9], by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as

godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved. ... <sup>13</sup> Faith justifies not because it is such a good work or because it is so beautiful a virtue. It justifies because it lays hold of and accepts Christ's merit in the promise of the Holy Gospel. For this merit must be applied and become ours through faith, if we are to be justified by it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, the righteousness that is credited to faith or to the believer out of pure grace is Christ's obedience, suffering, and resurrection, since He has made satisfaction for us to the Law and paid for our sins.

## MESSAGE

Romans 3:21-28

Alone, by Faith

## PRAYER

**M:** Teach us, O Lord, to delight in your law, to follow your decrees, and to walk in your paths. Turn our eyes away from worthless things and our hearts from willful sin, that we may know the sweetness of your Word, the peace of your forgiveness, and the joy of the redeemed, both now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## BLESSING

**M:** Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. *2 John 3*

**C:** Amen.

## HYMN

CW 403:3

# Sola Scriptura

August 3, 2017

8:00 a.m.



*Our Great*  
**HERITAGE**  
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Leader: Pastor Jeffrey Samelson  
Christ Lutheran Church Clarksville, MD

## HYMN

CW 204



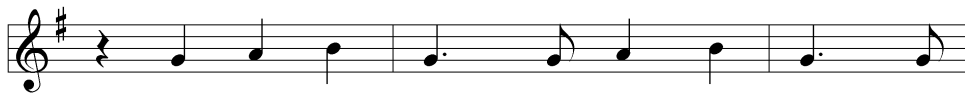
1 O God, our Lord, Your ho - ly Word Was long a  
2 Sal - va - tion true By faith in you— That is your  
3 Lord, you a - lone This work have done By your free  
4 Since you are mine, My Lord di - vine, Death holds no



hid - den trea - sure Till to its place It  
gos - pel's preach - ing, The heart and core Of  
grace and fa - vor. All who be - lieve Will  
dread - ful ter - rors; Your pre - cious blood, My



was by grace Re - stored in full - est mea - sure.  
Bi - ble lore In all its sa - cred teach - ing.  
grace re - ceive Through Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior.  
high - est good, Has blot - ted out my er - rors.



For this to - day Our thanks we say And  
In Christ we must Put all our trust, Not  
And though the foe Would o - ver - throw Your  
My thanks to you— Your Word is true! Ful -



glad - ly glo - ri - fy you. Your mer - cy show And  
in our deeds or la - bor; With con - science pure And  
Word with grim en - deav - or, All he has wrought Must  
fill your prom - ise ev - er, And mer - cy give While



grace be - stow On all who still de - ny you.  
heart se - cure Love you, Lord, and our neigh - bor.  
come to naught— Your Word will stand for - ev - er!  
here I live And heav'n - ly bliss for - ev - er.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) **Amen.**

M: Oh, how I love your law!

C: **I meditate on it all day long.**

M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: **for they are ever with me.**

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: **for I meditate on your statutes.**

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: **sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

*Psalm 119:97-99,103*

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

*2 Timothy 3:16,17*

M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner**

M: God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## READING

Large Catechism, Apostles' Creed, Third Article, 51-53

I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, even Christ.<sup>52</sup> This group is called together by the Holy Spirit in one faith, one mind, and understanding, with many different gifts, yet agreeing in love, without sects or schisms. I am also a part and member of this same group, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses. I am brought to it and incorporated into it by the Holy Spirit through having heard and continuing to hear God's Word....<sup>53</sup> So, until the Last Day, the Holy Spirit abides with the holy congregation or Christendom. Through this congregation He brings us to Christ and He teaches and preaches to us the Word. By the Word He works and promotes sanctification, causing this congregation daily to grow and to become strong in the faith and its fruit, which He produces.

<sup>54</sup> We further believe that in this Christian Church we have forgiveness of sin, which is wrought through the holy Sacraments and Absolution and through all kinds of comforting promises from the entire Gospel.... God's



grace is secured through Christ, and sanctification is wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian Church. Yet because of our flesh, which we bear about with us, we are never without sin.

<sup>55</sup> Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here.

## **MESSAGE**

2 Timothy 3:12-4:5

One with Authority

## **PRAYER**

**M:** Lord Jesus, it is your will that believers continue to grow in grace and knowledge throughout their lives. Fill the members of our congregations with a deep love for your Word and a desire to hear and learn it. Use our Bible classes, together with all other opportunities our congregations offer to study the Scriptures, as workshops of your Spirit. Nourish and strengthen the faith of many, so that we may grow together toward spiritual maturity. Hear us for your mercy's sake.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**M:** May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C:** **Amen.**

# Acknowledgements

## Organists:

Tuesday: Lucas Krogmann, LPS instructor

Wednesday: Bryan Gerlach, Director, Commission on Worship

Thursday: Bryan Gerlach, Director, Commission on Worship

## Sources:

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