



“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.” (1 Peter 1:13-21) (NIV)

Prayer: Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at Your holy table, But You are a friend of sinners, and You will not cast me out. This bread is Your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is Your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At Your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. In Your Holy Name I pray. AMEN. (C.W. pg. 11)



The Lord's Supper Today – If you are not a member of St. John’s nor in fellowship with us by being a member at one of our fellow *WELS* or *ELS* congregations we ask that you please not come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper until after completing a Bible Instruction course from our Pastor.

Scripture teaches that in the Lord’s Supper the True Body and True Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is Really Present in / with and under the bread and wine. In First Corinthians 11:17-34 we are warned that those who do not believe in the *Real Presence* will receive this Sacrament to their Judgment rather than their blessing. The Lord’s Supper is given for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26-29). It is not to be taken by anyone who willfully continues to live a sinful lifestyle (Romans 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:26-27). It is also an expression of Christian unity (Romans 15:5; Romans 16:17-18; Acts 2:44), and we are able to share Holy Communion only with those who are in our fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about the Lord’s Supper please be sure to speak to our Pastor.

Dear Guests! – We pray that you will be able to join us again after the COVID-19 issue is past. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail: Phone: 734-761-1740 E-mail: stjohnsnorthfield2015@gmail.com

Coffee Hour After Service – Canceled Due to COVID-19. Enjoy a Coffee at home.

Meditation Booklets – have arrived which are for the quarter of May 31, 2020 through August 29, 2020. We thank the Ladies Aid Society and the Men’s Club for covering the cost for these daily devotional booklets. Anyone who would like to help cover the cost may do so by making a Free Will offering to either the Ladies Aid or the Men’s Club.

Our Heavenly Father’s Business at St. John's

Sunday, April 26 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 9:15 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. - Canceled Due to COVID-19 Precautions – Extended BAN until May 15.

Sunday April 26 - VOTER’S Meeting – Canceled Due to COVID-19 Precautions – Extended BAN until may 15. The Voter’s Meeting has been postponed until Sunday May 24, 2020 after the worship Service. If possible.

Sunday – May 3 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 9:15 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. - Canceled Due to COVID-19 Precautions – Extended BAN until May 15.

Sunday – May 10 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 9:15 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. - Canceled Due to COVID-19 Precautions – Extended BAN until May 15.

Tuesday, May 12 – Men’s Club on recess until September

Sunday – May 17 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 9:15 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. – Social Distancing will be practiced and masks and gloves are welcome.

Monday, May 18 – 6:45 p.m. Deacon Meeting; 7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting. Social Distancing will be practiced and masks and gloves are welcome.

Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

Opening Hymn **C.W. 143 / TLH 198** sung by the Congregation

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Acts 2:14; 36-47

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 67 (C.W. pg. 91 – Sing or Read as Desired)

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us;

May Your ways be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Then the land will yield its harvest and God our God will bless us.

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.

This is the Word of The Lord.

Second Lesson – I Peter 1:13-21

Gospel Lesson – Luke 24:13-35

Nicene Creed by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 340 / TLH 360** sung by the Congregation

Sermon Text: I Peter 1:13-21

Sermon Theme: Are You Prepared For Action?

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering

Offering Prayer

Prayer Of The Church (Responsive Prayer - pg. 126)

Lord's Prayer

Communion Liturgy (Liturgy - pg. 21)

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Distribution Hymn **C.W. 316 / TLH 309** sung by the Congregation

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 462 / TLH 416** sung by the Congregation.

I Peter 1:13-21

Vs. 13 – Therefore prepare your minds for action; be self controlled; set you hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Vs. 14 – As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

Vs. 15 – But just as He Who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

Vs. 16 – for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

Vs. 17 – Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

Vs. 18 – For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

Vs. 19 – but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Vs. 20 – He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Vs. 21 – Through Him you believe in God, Who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

GREETING: GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. . (Matt. 24:35)

It was April of 1912. The great ship the “Titanic” at 882.5 feet in length, was making her maiden voyage from England to New York. Everything was prepared, except there were not enough life boats on board. It was thought, “who needs life boats on a ship that was said to be ‘unsinkable’?” Of the estimated 2,200 passengers on board, only 705 survived. The rest died in the frigid ocean.

Our nation and our world have been caught unprepared for COVID-19. It is being reported that Medical staff and hospitals are being stretched beyond the limits. The shutdown and stay at home policies have left business struggling and individuals and families without income, or with a reduced income that is putting huge strains on pocket books and bills are being left unpaid and lines for food are being reported, and at the time of this writing, there is no vaccine known vaccine for COVID-19.

Are you prepared?

In these verses for today, God, through the Apostle Peter tells the believers who are scattered due to persecution by Nero:

Vs. 13 – Therefore prepare your minds for action;

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are prepared for death.

We know that on the day we die, we will be with the Lord Jesus in heaven forever.

We know that simple, clear and plain message of Scripture which has been revealed to us in passages such as:

“God so loved the World, that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)

“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

We know as believers in the Risen Savior Jesus, that we have heaven where there is no more sin, or death or sorrow or pain, no more food lines or sinking ships or COVID-19. (Rev. 21:1-7)

We know that as believers in the Victorious Lord Jesus that in heaven our lowly bodies will be transformed and we shall have new glorified bodies. (Philippians 3:20-21)

But as you wait for that great day when the Lord Jesus takes you to your heavenly home, are you prepared for Action, as you live your life here and now - today – for Him?

God through the Apostle Peter gives us direction in these words concerning God's Will for how He wants us to live our Lives.

Vs. 13b - be self controlled; set you hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

How well do you control your temper?

How well do you control your desire to put earthly things ahead of God and His Word?

How well do you control you sinful lusts, desires and actions?

God through the Apostle Peter tells us:

Vs. 14 – As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

In other words, do not revert back to the sinful ways of the past, of yesterday, you are through the power of God the Holy Spirit, been brought to faith and are Children of God. How obedient?

All we need to do is run through the 10 commandments to see where we stand in the eyes of God:

1 – Have no other Gods; 2 – Do not take God's Name in Vain; - 3 – Remember the Sabbath day; - 4 – Honor your father and mother which also includes those in authority; 5 – Do not murder, this includes hate; - 6 – Do not commit adultery, this includes lust and any sexual conduct outside of the God given definition of marriage of one man and one woman bound together in holy matrimony; 7 – Do not steal – this includes shoplifting and fudging on your taxes; 8 – Do not Bear False witness – in other words speak well of your neighbor, and put the best construction on everything that others say. 9 & 10 – Do not Covet. Desire for things not one's own leads to crimes such as stealing and even murder.

Rather God tells us through Peter that we are to be as Holy and Perfect as God Himself!

Vs. 15 – But just as He Who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

Vs. 16 – for it is written: Be holy, because I am holy.

Unfortunately for us:

“Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles as just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” (James 2:10)

And we are sinful, not only from birth, but from the moment we were conceived as we have inherited that sinful nature from our parents. As loving and wonderful as our parents may have been, they passed sin on to us, all the way from Adam and Eve after the fall into sin until now. (Ps. 51:5)

God through the Apostle Peter tells us:

Vs. 17 – Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

And so my friends in Christ, in the midst of trial and tribulation, in the midst of being reminded from Scripture how sinful we really are;

Where do we find our strength?

What is it that gives us strength and enables us to Live our Lives – ACTIVELY - for the Lord Jesus?

- God, through the Apostle Peter has not left us empty.

Vs. 18 – For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

Vs. 19 – but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Vs. 20 – He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

It is by, in, through and because of Jesus Christ, The Perfect Lamb of God Who had and has NO blemish, and NO defect, Who went to the cross of Calvary where He took all our sin upon Himself.

All our sin was paid for, not with earthly things which pass away, but with His Holy Precious blood.

God's Blood. (Acts 20:28)

God's plan of Salvation in Christ Jesus was there before the Creation of the World, and God has graciously revealed it to you in His Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant, Perfect Word.

And so keep your eyes on Jesus.

Take all you troubles and struggles to Him in Prayer.

Read and study His Word every day.

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your Faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

Behold the Lamb of God, Who taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed! Halleluiah! AMEN

THEME: Are You Prepared For Action?