

ILCW Year-C Lessons for the  Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Old Testament

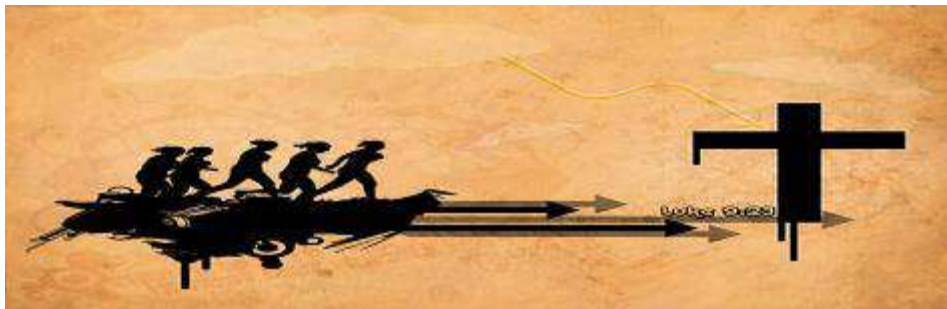
Zechariah 12:7-10 NIV "The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem's inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah. 8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. 9 On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem. 10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only Child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn Son.

Epistle (Sermon Text)

Galatians 3:23-29 Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. 24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gospel

Luke 9:18-24 Once when Jesus was praying in private and His disciples were with Him, He asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" 19 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." 20 "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." 21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 22 And He said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and He must be killed and on the Third Day be raised to life." 23 Then He said to them all: "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it.



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
5th Sunday of Pentecost(C)  Christian FREEDOM
June 23rd 2013  9:30am



*Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 9 - The Cost of Discipleship.
Jesus discusses the cost of discipleship with two individuals.
Images of the bird and fox illustrate.*

Courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=2966>

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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PHONE (863) 859-3400— www.osllakeland.com

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

June 23rd, 2013 Pentecost-5(C) ✠FREEDOM ✠

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, our pastor would be glad to share information about our church with you and discuss membership at your convenience. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert.)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 5**. Please leave the service folder insert with an usher or on table after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	37 (3v)	Lord, Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee
Hymn of Day	297 (6v)	The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace
Sermon	Gal. 3:23-29	<i>(Can't Take Away) "Our FREEDOM!"</i>
Offering Verses	441; v1-2	We Give Thee But Thine Own
Sending Hymn	410 (4v)	Jesus, Lead Thou On, Till Our Rest...
Closing Hymn	422 (4v)	Savior I Follow On

PROPERs for (TRINITY4=)FIFTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST-C ☪ JUNE 23

INTROIT: The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the Strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came up against me, mine enemies and my foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear. ...Ps.27

COLLECT: Grant, O Lord, we beseech You, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your direction that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

GRADUAL: Forgive our sins, O Lord, lest the heathen say, Where is their God? Help us, O God of our salvation, and for the glory of Your Name deliver us. Alleluia! Alleluia! O God, You sit in the throne, judging right; be a Refuge for the oppressed in times of trouble. Alleluia! ...from Ps.9

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

Zechariah 13:7-10 The prophet pictures Christ as the Suffering Shepherd.
Galatians 3:23-29 We are all equal as God's kids in Christ and the Gospel.
Luke 9:18-24 Jesus tells of His suffering and death and discipleship.

SERMON Text: (Epistle) Gal. 3:23-29 **THEME:** (TRUE, SPIRITUAL) "FREEDOM"

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Patty & Buster Brewbaker
Richard Birkenmeier	Delores (Dee) Kurczewski
Jonathan Jumper (grandson of Elaine Jones)	Jeanette Kubly
Tyler Kirby (nephew of Andrea Sawyer)	Mariah Sawyer
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)	Ann Wentz

Volunteers	This week	Next week
Greeter	Elaine Jones	(Volunteer)
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are **IN NEED OF SERVERS** for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	--	37
Communion Attendance	--	30
Sunday Bible Class	--	9
Thursday Bible Class	--	9
Sunday Offering	\$-,---.00	(YTD total) \$-,---.---

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 6/23	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 ff...	Bible Study (still have it) Divine Worship at Our Savior Church Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i>
Tuesday, 6/25	6:00 pm	NO Catechism Class with Prescott
Thursday, 6/27	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck's
Saturday, 6/29	1:30 pm	NO Catechism Class with Sawyers
Sunday, 6/30	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff...	Bible Study (still have it) Worship (no Holy Communion) Fellowship time: <i>Treats and Drinks</i>

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807, John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule Notes - Month of June

As of **June 16th** Pastor is away for two weeks (June 16 – July 1) to attend the www.ELS.name ELS 2013 Synod Convention and to visit family. During this time, members can contact Elders at the numbers shown above. Also, Pastor Andy will still be contactable via **email: anderuu@gmail.com** and on his cell phone: **863 430-5859**.

(TRI-4) Pent.5C Gal.3:23-29 "(CAN'T TAKE AWAY OUR) FREEDOM" 06.23.13

INTRODUCTION: We live in a country that prides itself in freedom. The freedom to write and say whatever we want, the freedom to elect a government and the freedom to criticize the government we elect. The freedom to worship or not. The freedom to chart our own course and live our lives as we choose, so long as we don't infringe on the liberty of our neighbour. It's a great thing, this political freedom we enjoy.

But that's **not** the type of freedom we have in mind for this morning. Let's think of the kind of freedom of which the apostle Paul wrote to the congregations in the province of Galatia. The book of **Galatians is about Freedom. Not** political freedom or economic freedom or even religious freedom. It's about **spiritual freedom** - freedom from the condemnation of God's Law, freedom from bondage to **sin**, freedom to worship God without fear, freedom **to stand before God** as a sinner convinced that God justifies the sinner in the death of Jesus Christ.

Christ alone, His suffering, His Cross and Resurrection alone, is the only foundation of true spiritual freedom. **Any other foundation is shifting sand.**

The threat in the Galatian churches was the "blending of **Moses** and **Christ**." There were teachers **coming in behind Paul, saying, "Paul's taken you this far, but now you need to go further. Paul took you to high school, but we're here to put you through college. Now you must submit to Moses, be circumcised, maintain the Old Testament dietary laws, tithing, etc. to be a real Christian."** And in a way, it all made sense. Why should the Gentiles get the easy ride? How could they ignore what the Old Testament commanded Israel? How could the Gentiles set aside the same law that every Jewish person was bound to keep? And if Jesus was truly the Messiah of the Jews, then it made perfectly good sense to say, *"In addition to faith in Christ, you must be obedient to the law of Moses."* Faith plus obedience equals salvation. That makes sense, doesn't it?

In response, Paul wrote this short, passionate letter, to say, **"No. It's either Christ alone through faith alone or it's the law alone and Christ died for nothing."** **It doesn't get any clearer than that.** Anything added to the Cross of Christ **diminishes our freedom** in Christ. *In fact, if you try to add anything to Christ, you will lose Christ!*

Before Christ, God held the world under "protective custody," so to speak. He did it **for our own good**. He knows what we would do if there weren't any **fences** and **curbs** and **"no trespassing" signs**. Look at what we do with the political freedoms we have. Freedom of speech becomes freedom to traffic in pornography. Freedom of religion turns into freedom **from** religion. Even our freedom from the Law, which is ours through faith in Christ, gets distorted into **"I can do whatever I please."** God knows what a world full of sinners would do **without a law**.

And so He places us in protective custody under the Law, to keep us from hurting ourselves and others. If we're tempted to defy authority, the Law is there to threaten us with *eternal damnation*. If we're tempted to kill, to commit adultery, to steal, lie, cheat, gossip, the Law will clamp down on us and reign us in. Like a high voltage fence. "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is

the Law." Be careful around the law. We're talking high voltage. It kills. The Law *always* kills.

Paul says that the Law is like a schoolmaster, a tutor. Teaching us, preparing us, softening up the hard packed soil of our hearts, frustrating us, foiling our *false* religions, driving us to Christ and His mercy. When you think of the Law, don't think of some sweet 2nd grade teacher. Think of the drill sergeant, the trainer, the coach who pushes you, who raises every bar you clear, who stretches you beyond where you can go, who never lets you put up your feet to look at your trophies.

Think you're doing pretty good? "Not good enough," says the Law.

Do you see yourself as a fine Christian man or woman, a good worker, a stellar parent, a pillar of congregation and community? *"Not even close,"* the Law says. You're **not perfect**, and pretty good isn't going to cut it. Do you imagine that you fear, love, trust in God above all things? The Law says, *"You haven't even scratched the surface."* Do you think that you are righteous, holy, pleasing to God, that you could stand before God on the day of judgment and hold out that resume of *good works* and say, "See all the good things I've done!?" The Law says, "You and your works will go straight to hell."

But there's **good going on here, a purpose**. The Law turns us away from ourselves, and drives us straight to Christ, to His death and resurrection, to His Baptism, Absolution, and Supper. Don't look at yourselves, look at Him, look at Jesus - dying and rising for you, keeping commandment for you, saving you.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

Where Christ is, **the Law is silent, it has nothing more to say.** *"Christ is the end of the Law for all who believe"* (**Romans 10:4**). Christ is the end, the purpose and fulfillment of the Law, for all who trust that His death is their death, His obedience their obedience, His life their life.

But where there is faith in Jesus, there is **no condemnation**. That's the freedom Christ has won for us by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead: the freedom from condemnation under the Law. The **Law can't harm us**, it can't accuse us before God, it can't condemn us to hell. The worst it can do is drive us to the grave, but no more than that. And from the grave Jesus will raise us. He gets the last word. He is God's last Word for all who trust in Him.

Jesus was condemned **for each of us, in our place**. Paul says, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us."* Do you realise that this means?! - Jesus not only died our death, **He was damned with our hell**. The Father turned His back on His Son **instead of us**, in place of us. And we, by nothing more than the undeserved kindness of God, are hidden in Jesus. "I no longer live," Paul says. "I'm dead. Dead to the world, dead to sin and the flesh, and dead to the Law. I no longer live, but Christ who lives, lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

That's **True Freedom**. Freedom to live before God as a child of God. Freedom to serve others in love. Freedom from sin and death and all the things that bind you and paralyze you.

How do you know for certain that this freedom is yours? **Look to your Baptism.** Baptism is God's **declaration of freedom**, personally applied to you in His Name. You are all sons and daughters of God, through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptised into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Christ is your clothing. You wear Him in Baptism like a seamless robe that covers you from top to bottom, hiding your disobedience with His perfect obedience. You are clothed with Christ, and you look good to God clothed that way. That's why God baptised you in the first place. We can't appear before God unclothed. Don't dare to try to cover yourself. You can't. But **God can, and has done it.**

We live as sinners before God wrapped in the death of another. **You are clothed with Christ, wrapped in His death.** That's what Baptism is telling you. And within the suit of forgiveness, there is no condemnation.

There is neither **Jew nor Greek**, there is neither **slave nor free**, there is neither **male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Baptism doesn't wipe out our ethnic identity or genetics. It doesn't change our place in society. And it doesn't alter our being male and female. But it makes us something new = (it makes us) **Children of God.**

In the ancient world, **only the first-born son inherited** the land of his father. **Not** the daughters. **Not** the second or third sons. **Not** the slaves. That's what Paul means when he says that we are **ALL one in Christ Jesus**. We are **ALL treated as first-born sons**, regardless of whether we are circumcised or not, slave or free, male or female, because you have been baptised into the one death and life of the only-begotten Son who saved us all. You are so intimately joined to Jesus by Baptism through faith that you are called "sons of God." **Free sons.**

This has nothing to do with male or female. It has to do with inheritance. You belong to Christ, and if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise. You are heirs of eternal life. What do you have to do to inherit something? **Not much, really.** You have to be in the will, of course, by the good graces of the one who puts you there. *Through Christ you and I are in God's will.* <-you can take that any **number** of ways.)

CONCLUSION The **forgiveness** is yours. **Eternal life** is yours. **Salvation** is yours. Life and **freedom** are yours. That is your inheritance from the Father through His Son Jesus by the Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus hung on a Cross. This is why you are **Baptized**. Why you are fed with His **Word**, His **Body and Blood**. So that you may know and trust that the inheritance is yours, through simple faith alone, for Jesus' sake alone. You can add nothing to what Jesus did. You can only live in His freedom. And if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. In Jesus' Name, **Amen.**

(And now,) *That **peace of God** which passes all understanding, be and abide with us all through **FREEDOM of the faith in Christ Jesus, Amen.***

Our Savior Lutheran Church Lakeland, FL, USA 5th Sunday of Pentecost(C) *Christian FREEDOM*

Prayer of the Church + 5th Sunday of Pentecost (Proper 7C) + June 23 2013

Almighty God, we have followed the desires of our hearts and done what is right in our own eyes. We have not heard Your Word nor heeded Your instruction. Hear us and free us from our sin, our demons and our pride. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, grant to us the freedom of Your grace, that we may desire what is good and right and true and may have the courage to do it. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, You have established Your Church upon the rock of Christ. Guide and prosper the work of Your kingdom and those who serve You in Your Church. Help all the baptized to acknowledge Your gracious will and walk in Your ways. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, Your power is without limit and yet You have chosen to govern Your people through mortal men and women. Guide and bless all those who serve us on every level of government and bless the labors of all Your people in industry, agriculture and the professional arts. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Bless the fields and harvest that crops may flourish, and no one may live in hunger or want. Help us to be mindful of the poor and needy and to care for them in Your name. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, You wash us clean in Baptism and set us apart as Your own people. Hear us on behalf of the sick, the suffering, the troubled in mind and heart and those near death [especially, **People on the OSL Prayer List**] that they may be strengthened and upheld in every weakness and need, according to Your will. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, You give us all things in Christ. Receive our tithes and offerings as our joyful response. Lead us by Your grace in lives of praise and thanksgiving, offering our very selves as living sacrifices in joyful gratitude for all that You have done for us. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, this is the Table of our Lord and we come in His name to receive the grace promised to us there. Help us to commune with a right heart, receiving in faith the fullness of Your grace promised to us in our Savior's most blessed body and blood. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, You gather Your children in the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. We remember before You with joy those who have fallen asleep in saving faith. Keep us in communion with them, and bring us together into Your feast of joy that has no end. *P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.*

These and all things needful we pray in the name of Jesus that You may give us, as You will, and for our benefit in this life and the blessing of eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**