

## Scripture Lessons for the Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity

### Old Testament

**Isaiah 32:1-8 NIV** See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. 2 Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. 3 Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. 4 The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear. 5 No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected. 6 For the fool speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil: He practices ungodliness and spreads error concerning the LORD; the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water. 7 The scoundrel's methods are wicked, he makes up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just. 8 But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.

### Epistle (Sermon Text)

**Philippians 3:17-21** Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

### Gospel (Sermon Text)

**Matthew 22:15-22** Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. 16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. 17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? 19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, 20 and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" 21 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.



✧ p.11 ✧

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA  
(23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity  Heavenly Citizenship)  
November 3, 2013 ✧ 9:30am  Confirmation Sunday



*Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless.*



*Prescott Paul Dux - Confirmed  
At Our Savoir Lutheran of Lakeland*

# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org](http://www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org)

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM  
Rev. A R Burmeister 430-5859 ✱ Organ: Janice Thomas 813 650-9198

**November 3, 2013 (Trinity-23) Confirmation**

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** Printed here and in the red TLH hymnal p.5.

Service		
Opening Hymn	463 (8v)	<i>Sing verses 1,3,5,7</i> For All the Saints
Hymn of the Day	334 (3v)	Let Me Be Thine Forever
Offertory Hymn	250 (4v)	<i>Sing verses 1&amp;4</i> Holy God We Praise
Confirmation Hymn	648 (3v)	I Am Jesus' Little Lamb
Closing Hymn	657 (1v)	Beautiful Savior, King of Creation

## **Suggested Bible readings for the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Joel 3:1-13	Joel 3:14-21	Obadiah	Nahum 1:1-14	Nah. 1:15-3:19	Isa. 10:5-27
I Cor. 3:1-23	Matt. 19:16-30	Luke 14:12-15	Mark 13:1-37	Rom. 9:1-23	Rom. 10:1-21

## **PROPERs for the 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY after TRINITY - CONFIRMATION** **NOV 3**

**INTROIT:** I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then will you call on Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you; and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations and from all places. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. ...from **Psalm 84**

**COLLECT:** Absolve, we beseech You, O Lord, Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One True God, now and forever, **C: J A--men.**

**GRADUAL:** You have saved us from our enemies and have put them to shame who hated us. In God we boast all the day long and praise Your Name forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is your Help and your Shield. Alleluia! ...from **Psalm 24**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:** *(printed on the outside back page 11 of the bulletin)*

<b>Isaiah 32:1-8</b>	Rulers and Governments are instituted by God.
<b>Philippians 3:17-21</b>	Paul tells Philippians our citizenship is in Heaven.
<b>Matthew 22:15-22</b>	Jesus answers a question re: Paying taxes.

**SERMON:** (Epi&Gos) **PRESCOTT**, You & WE WERE ALIENS BUT ARE **INHERITORS!**

## **ILCW Year-C Lessons for Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost** **Old Testament**

**Exodus 34:5-9 NIV** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." 8 Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. 9 "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

## **Epistle**

**II Thessalonians 1:1-5; 11-12** Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ... 11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel**

**Luke 19:1-10** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
<b>Madeline Beck</b>	(and son <b>Raymond</b> visiting)	Guidance & comfort
<b>Prescott Dux</b>	(newest Comm. member of OSL)	Spiritual growth
<b>Mary Fowler</b>	(Sharon Williamson's mother)	Healing & comfort
<b>Dee Kurczewski</b>	(& son David)	Providence & release
<b>Jonathan Jumper</b>	(Elaine's grandson)	Healing in youth
<b>Doug Marsh</b>	(Robin Dux' father)	Underwent surgery, back home
<b>David Sawyer</b>	(Jon Sr 's brother)	Out of hospital, triple bypass
<b>Vivian Temple</b>	(Re-admitted to hospital)	Healing & comfort
<b>Rita Wendt</b>	(Steve Wendt's mother)	Went into hospital
<b>Zeke &amp; Frances Wentz</b>	(Father/husband <b>David W. died</b> )	Comfort in loss
<b>Marcus Wienke</b>	(Bev & Don's grandson)	Leukemia - recovering

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Bev &amp; Don Wienke</b>	<b>Jeanette &amp; Ernie Kubly</b>
<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Leroy Dux</b>	<b>Leroy Dux</b>
<b>Treats</b>	<b>Robin Dux (Confirmation)</b>	<b>(Volunteer)</b>

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

Recent Statistics	Last week	Year to date (Avg)
<b>Worship, Communion Attendance</b>	<b>40, --</b>	<b>33, 24</b>
<b>Bible Class: Thursday, Sunday</b>	<b>9, 11</b>	<b>9, 12</b>
<b>Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(YTD) \$</b>

Calendar of Events		
<b>Today, 11/3</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study "Catechism/Confirmation"</b>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship = Confirmation at OSL</b>
	<b>11:00 ff...</b>	<b>Reception (Lunch) for Prescott Dux ^</b>
<b>Wednesday 11/6</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>(Choir) Fellowship at church</b>
<b>Thursday, 11/7</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>NO Bible Study at Madeline Beck's</b>
<b>Saturday, 11/9</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>FL Women's Mission Rally at Peace-SL</b>
<b>Sunday, 10/27</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (WITH Communion)</b>
	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Fellowship, Fun (&amp; Food) ...please stay!</b>

Our (Savior) Elders are: **Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892.** Please contact them.

### OSL SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK & NOVEMBER

We rejoice and thank the Lord with the Dux and **Prescott** on his Confirmation day!

**OSL Ladies: Fall Mission Rally is November 9<sup>th</sup> – that's *this* Saturday! See you!**  
A special **free will donation** basket is at the rear of the church today for this cause.

Next Sunday: **11/10 TRI.24/3<sup>RD</sup> LAST (W/ L.S.) Hymns TLH: #605 407 315 613**

### PRAYER FOR PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word and to offer You our praise and worship. We pray, open our hearts by means of Your Holy Spirit so that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.



### A WORD TO OUR GUESTS

We follow the historic Christian liturgy as our order of worship. For centuries disciples of Jesus have worshipped the Lord following this basic order of service. It is rich in Biblical content, tested by time and usage, and centered on the saving actions of God, not on the feelings of those worshipping.

Nothing as rich as the Christian liturgy can be appreciated and understood instantly. If you are new to liturgical worship, please allow yourself time to become familiar with its music and meaning. We are confident that you will not find it difficult. Even this first time you will hear the Good News of God's love clearly in the words of God's prophets, God's apostles and God's Son, Jesus Christ, as they speak to us from Scripture.

A very brief explanation of some outward actions may be helpful. The congregation in worship (we are not part of an audience, but a part of the action of worshipping) generally is seated to listen to God's Word and sing the regular hymns. The pastor faces the congregation when he is serving as God's spokesman and faces the altar when he is serving in the capacity of the congregations' spokesman and as he joins them as a worshipper.



### OUR (SAVIOR) WELCOME

Our Savior congregation is so very pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. We welcome you in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome and to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely.

It is our goal to focus attention on the record of God's gracious accomplishments for our eternal destiny with Him. May the certainty of His mercy help to brighten the week ahead and to supply you with resolve for living as God's child and an heir of eternal life.





*P: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this **Our Savior Lutheran** congregation?*

**P: I do.**

*P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the Divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His Means of Grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?*

**P: I do so intend by the grace of God.**

*P: Then give your hand as a pledge and promise, and kneel to receive the blessing.*

*P: **Prescott Paul Dux**, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.*

*(Your chosen Confirmation verse)*

**Revelation 2:10 Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of Life.**

*P: Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, Prescott Dux, as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Our Savior congregation, to share with us in all the gifts, rights and privileges our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service.*

Let us **pray** for the newly confirmed: **(Please rise for prayer.)**

*P: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness and mercy in bringing Your son, Prescott, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling him both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving Name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, he may continue steadfast and victorious to the Day when all who have fought the good fight of faith will receive the Crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives; and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.***

*P: The almighty and most merciful God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you. **C: Amen.***

**CONFIRMATION HYMN: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb** TLH #648 (3v) WEIL ICH

1. I am Jesus' little lamb, - Ever glad at heart I am;

For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need, and well provides me,  
Loves me every day the same, - Even calls me by my name.

2. Day by day, at home, away, - Jesus is my Staff and Stay.

When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, - Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go - Where the quiet waters flow.

3. Who so happy as I am, - Even now the Shepherd's lamb?

And when my short life is ended, - By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, - There within His arms to rest.

✠ p.7 ✠

**The GLORIA PATRI** (Glory be to God)

**C: ♪ Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (Lord Have Mercy)

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (Glory in the Highest)

*P: ♪ Glory be to God on high.*

**C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son- of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon- us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the Right Hand of God the Father, have mercy upon- us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.**

**The SALUTATION** (Greeting)

*P: ♪ The Lord be with you.*

**C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.**

**The COLLECT** (Prayer for this Sunday prayed by Pastor ✠ words on **page 1**)

**C: (sung after the Collect) ♪ A- - -men.** The congregation may be **seated**.

## II. The Service of The Word *TLH p.10*

**OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 32:1-8** Rulers & Governments R instituted by God.

**EPISTLE: Philippians 3:17-21** (Philippians & Us) Our citizenship is in Heaven.

**GRADUAL C: You have saved us from our enemies and have put them to shame who hated us. In God we boast all the day long and praise Your Name forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is your Help and your Shield. Alleluia!**

**C: (Sung after the Epistle & Gradual) ♪ Allelu-ia, Allelu-ia, Allelu – – ia!**

**The HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22** The congregation please **rise**.

**C: (Sung before the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ Glory be to You, O LORD.**

**C: (Sung after the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ Praise- be to You, O CHRIST.**

**APOSTLES' CREED** (Creed will be said during the Rite of Confirmation)  
The Congregation may be **seated** for the next hymn.

(CONFIRMATION) HYMN of the DAY: **"Let Me Be Thine Forever"** #334



**HYMN of the DAY: "Let Me Be Thine Forever" TLH #334 ICH DANK' DIR**

1. Let me be Thine forever, - Thou faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake Thee never - Nor wander from Thy Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver, - But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever - Thy holy Name I'll bless.

2. Lord Jesus, my Salvation, - My Light, my Life divine,  
My only Consolation, - Oh, make me wholly Thine!  
For Thou hast dearly bought me - With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since Thou hast sought me, - Eternal life obtain.

3. And Thou, O Holy Spirit, - My Comforter and Guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit - I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing - Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me Thy constant blessing - And grant a Christian death.

*(End of Sermon) The **Peace** of God, which passes all understanding, keep  
your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting, **Amen.***

*(After Sermon) C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and- renew a  
right spirit within me, Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take-  
not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with- Thy- free spir-it. A-men.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE Holy God We Praise Thy Name #250,1&4 GROSSER GOTT**

1. Holy God-, we praise- Thy Name; Lord of all-, we bow- before Thee.  
All on earth- Thy scep-ter claim, All in heav'n- above- adore Thee.  
Infinite- Thy vast domain, Everlas-ting is- Thy reign.
4. Holy Fa-ther, ho-ly Son, Holy Spir-it, Three- we name Thee;  
Though in es-sence on-ly one, Undivid-ed God- we claim Thee  
And, ador-ing, bend the knee While we own- the mys-tery.

**The PRAYER of the CHURCH**

Here are **Congregation Responses** for the general **PRAYER of the CHURCH**

*(Pastor prays a section, then) P: ...Let us pray to the Lord: C: Lord, have mercy.*

*After the General Prayer, The LORD'S PRAYER*

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven;  
Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And Forgive us our trespasses 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 & ever, Amen.**



**The Rite of Confirmation**



*P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven  
and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all  
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit an teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And  
surely I will be with you, to the very end of the age."*

***Prescott Paul Dux**, you have been baptized and you have been  
taught the faith according to our Lord's bidding. We now celebrate the  
fulfillment of His bidding with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith  
into which you were baptized and which you yourself will now confess before  
God and His Church.*

*Jesus said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess  
him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will  
deny him before My Father in heaven."*

*Lift up your heart therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give  
answer to what, in the Name of the Lord, as a minister of His Church, I will now  
ask you.*

*P: Do you today in the presence of God and of this congregation  
acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?*

**P: I do.**

*P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?*

**P: I do.**

*P: Do you believe in God, the **Father Almighty**?*

**P: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

*P: Do you believe in **Jesus Christ**, His only Son?*

**P: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and was buried;  
He descended into hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

*P: Do you believe in the **Holy Ghost**?*

**P: Yes, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints,  
the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life ✧ everlasting.**

*P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to  
suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?*

**P: I do so intend with the help of God.**

*P: Do you hold all the prophetic (Old Testament) and apostolic (New  
Testament) Scriptures (the Bible) to be the inspired Word of God and  
confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is drawn  
from them, as you have learned to know it from the **Small Catechism**, to be  
faithful and true?*

**P: I do.**

## TRINITY23 Matt.22:15-21 & Phil.3:17-21 "LIVING IN (GOD'S) 2 KINGDOMS" OS

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

INTRODUCTION: All of you are citizens of two different homelands. It's true. If you are a Christian, then by definition you hold dual citizenship. You are citizens of a country of this world, and you are also citizens of the kingdom of heaven. You have a **temporary citizenship**, and you have an **eternal citizenship**. And today's Scriptures teach that although these two kingdoms are very different from one another, both of them are from God.

Lutherans have historically referred to these **two kingdoms as God's left hand and right hand kingdoms**. The left hand kingdom is the kingdom of the **Law, the government**. The right hand kingdom is the kingdom of the Gospel, the church. God is the ultimate authority behind both. In God's left hand kingdom, He appoints civil authorities to maintain order, to defend its citizens, to punish wrongdoers and to praise those who do what is good and right. In this kingdom of the left hand, **the Law holds sway**. Coercion and the threat of penalties and prison are used to keep the peace. But in God's **Right Hand Kingdom, the Gospel holds sway**. The church operates not by threat but **by gentle invitation**, not by penalties but by the **forgiveness of sins**. Peace comes through Christ's death on the Cross which reconciles us to God the Father. It is not a temporary peace between people but an everlasting peace with God. The Church is not ruled by the sword but governed by the preaching of God's Word alone.

Jesus directs us to give proper honor to both kingdoms when He says, *"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."* First of all, give the governing authorities the honor and obedience that is due to them. For God is the one who has established the governing authorities. They may often abuse their authority; they may not even realize that they have a divine calling. But Christians are to honor them as servants of God nonetheless. For by honoring them, we are really honoring God Himself. ... So it is for us today. We may or may not like a particular governing official. But if God has allowed him (or her) to be established in office, then **we are to honor him for God's sake**, paying our taxes and obeying whatever laws are in force, as long as they do not cause us to sin against God. (In that case, it is written, *"We must obey God rather than men."*)

**The political situation in Jesus' day was quite touchy.** Israel was ruled by the Romans, and many of the Jews didn't like that arrangement. So the Pharisees tried to use that situation to get Jesus in trouble, to entangle Jesus in His talk. They got together with some Herodians, who were political types, supporters of Herod and the Romans. The Pharisees had nothing in common with the Herodians except that they both wanted to get rid of Jesus.

After trying hypocritically to flatter Jesus, they asked the question, *"Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"* It's a subtle trap. If Jesus says "no," it is not right to pay taxes to Caesar, then He is guilty of treason against Rome

and the political Herodians would be the first to report Him. If Jesus says "yes," it is right to pay taxes to Caesar, then He is guilty of disloyalty to Israel, and the religious leaders could use that to turn the people against Him.

But Jesus here shows that He is truly the wisdom of God in the flesh. He will not be caught in their little trap. He asks them to show Him the tax money. And He says to them, *"Whose image and inscription is this?"* They said to Him, "Caesar's." The coin had a portrait of Tiberias on the one side, and a picture of him seated on his throne on the other. The inscription declared Tiberias to be "maxim pontiff," great ruler. Then Jesus said, *"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."* And they marveled at His words and went their way.

You see, when it comes to settling accounts with God, you can do **one of two things**: either you can (1) render to Him **your own works and your own goodness, which always fall short**, or you can (2) **render to Him the works and the sacrifice of Christ** as the full and complete payment for your sins. So then, to render to God the things that are God's is simply to rely on Christ and believe in Him. It is to point to Christ crucified and say, *"There is my salvation. He alone is the offering that wins for me everlasting life."*

And **there is even more**. For through your Baptism into Christ, our Lord put His own inscription on you, the name of the "Maxim Pontiff," the **Great (3-in-1) Ruler—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. On you, whose image is tarnished and corrupted, Jesus stamped the sign of the cross and joined you to Himself. In Jesus the very image of God is restored to your humanity. **In Christ you are God's holy coinage, His cherished treasure.**

By your baptismal faith you are **now citizens of heaven**, St. Paul says. You have entered into God's right hand kingdom of grace. For God in His mercy **has extended His right hand to you in His Son Jesus**. Jesus came to live under both God the Father and Caesar. He perfectly kept the Law. He received Pontius Pilate's authority as God's authority. He died under the same Caesar who was pictured on the coin that the Pharisees and Herodians brought to him. **Jesus purchased and redeemed you, not with gold or silver but with His holy, precious blood**. This same Jesus now reigns bodily at the Right Hand of the Father as the risen King of kings and Lord of lords, whose kingdom shall have no end. Jesus is head over all things for the church. Though there are things that may threaten your temporal life in the left-hand kingdom, the **Father holds you safely forever in His Right Hand. You are citizen/s of heaven through Jesus.**

And because of that fact, you are very often going to feel like **foreigners in this world, like strangers in a strange land**. Christians in this world are like square pegs in a round hole. **We don't fit in**. Our teaching is counter-cultural. For it is always exposing the idolatries of our society and calling everyone to repent. And it is always holding forth Christ

alone as the only way to be forgiven and have eternal life. The world doesn't really have any time for that message. The Scriptures say, "Do not marvel that the world hates you; for it hated Christ first."

Today's Epistle reminds us that many are enemies of the Cross of Christ. Though they try to **lure you away from your heavenly citizenship** to something that offers more immediate gratification, **don't be like them (Prescott)**, for their end is destruction, Paul says. Remember that in **Baptism you are born from above**. Set your mind therefore on things above, where Christ is seated at the Right Hand of God. Live as pilgrims in this world, as foreigners who are only passing through to our true homeland. This is how our father Abraham lived. It is written in Hebrews, *"By faith Abraham dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. . . (He desired) a better, that is, a heavenly country."*

So also, we set the deepest love of our hearts not on this passing world and its temporary kingdoms but on the better, heavenly country. The **Epistle** says, *"We eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body."* Our natural birth leads to death. But our **SUPERnatural REbirth** into Christ leads to the Resurrection of our bodies to **share in Jesus' Easter glory**. These lowly bodies of ours will be transformed by Christ. By the all-encompassing power of the Lord, they will undergo a wonderful and mysterious transfiguration, so that they will be like the glorious body of Jesus after His resurrection. As **Job 19** says, *"I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God."* Your bodies will no longer be subject to all of the troubles they experience in this world. They will still be real, tangible, touchable bodies, just like Jesus' was after Easter. But your bodies will be immortal and perfect and imperishable. No longer will sin or death be able to threaten you in the least. Rather, you will live before God amidst the holy pleasures of the new creation eternally.

Let us, therefore, **honor God in both of His Kingdoms**. Let us show allegiance to our country and this good land He has given to us, honoring those in positions of temporal authority whom He has placed over us. And let us, above all else, give allegiance to the eternal Father, to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, to His saving Word, to our **Catechism** and **Creeds** which faithfully confess that Word. Let us hold forth the holy **Crucifix of Christ as our great flag, the banner of salvation**. For though it is a stumbling block for Jews and foolishness for Gentiles, Christ's Cross remains the power and the wisdom of God and the **only way to enter His everlasting, unshakable Kingdom**. This is what you have been taught, Prescott. May God keep you in His grace and His Kingdom to life eternal.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. SDG*  
(Some of the above was adapted from a sermon by the Rev. David Petersen of Fort Wayne, IN)

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA  
(23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity  Heavenly Citizenship)  
November 3, 2013 ✕ 9:30am  Confirmation Sunday



*Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless.*



*Prescott Paul Dux - Confirmed  
At Our Savoir Lutheran of Lakeland*