

Trinity Sunday – June 16, 2019
Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Charles Heup

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2) through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4) perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5) 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.

In the name of our Triune God, dear friends:

In the hymn we have just sung, we asked that the Holy Spirit would teach us to know the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit better so that we might praise his name and confess the truths of Scripture in our lives. The Holy Spirit caused the words of our text to be written and preserved for us as a way of answering this prayer. These words were suggested as a text for this day because they speak of the work of the Holy Trinity in connection with our justification. As we consider these words today we will be reminded of all that the Triune God has done for us. And as we grow in our understanding and appreciation of what God has done for us we will be motivated to confess

Theme: We Believe in the Triune God

1. The Father has justified us
2. The Son has redeemed us
3. The Holy Spirit has given us faith

Our text begins by speaking about the peace that we have with God as a result of the fact that we have been justified by God. **Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** When Paul speaks of our justification he is speaking about the fact that the Father has declared all people righteous on the basis of what his Son has done for them.

Think of a court room scene. When a trial judge announces a verdict and declares someone not guilty – that verdict has an effect on the emotions, the attitudes and even the actions of those in the courtroom. That verdict will fill the defendant and his supporters with joy, relief and a sense of freedom. Instead of being lead away to be imprisoned the defendant will ultimately be able to walk away and live as a free person.

This reaction is quite different than the reaction of those who supported the prosecution side in the case. The announcement of not guilty may anger the prosecution or frustrate them. The anger and frustration will find ways of expressing itself in their thinking and actions.

God’s declaration of “not guilty” also has an effect on all people. It angers those who don’t believe that they are accountable to God or who think that they can please God with their own works. It fills those who feel their guilt and confess their sins with joy and relief.

Since God has justified us, we have peace with God. We are no longer opposing God as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. They felt the shame of their guilt and they ran and hid among the trees of the garden. They were afraid of God and afraid of what he would do to them because of their sin. They had no peace with God. They thought of him as the enemy.

Peace with God came to them when God sought them and promised them a Savior. When they heard that promise of a Savior and believed it; their emotions, attitudes and actions were changed. They were no longer filled with guilt. They no longer had a reason to be afraid of God. They eagerly waited for the Savior as they carried out the responsibilities that God had given to them.

God has also come to us with his promise of a Savior. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who has provided us with the grace which we now enjoy. Grace is the undeserved love of God which is revealed to us in the Gospel. God's grace includes his willingness to send his Son to be our Savior. It includes every thing that Jesus – the Son of God did to establish peace with God for us. God the Father has justified us only for Jesus' sake. We are justified because of what Jesus did for us. We offer our praise to the Father sent his Son to justify us and to the Son who redeemed us.

To redeem someone means that another individual pays a price to set you free. Once Adam and Eve sinned – they became slaves to sin. They had no choice – they were no longer perfect and so the only thing they could do was sin. That meant that they had become servants of the Devil. They had separated themselves from God. It also meant that they had died spiritually. Sooner or later they would die a physical death. They were destined to spend eternity in hell. Because Adam and Eve passed their sins on to us; our natural condition was exactly the same as I have just described.

But as we have learned in the Scriptures – God's promise of a Savior offered Adam and Eve peace and grace. God's Son, Jesus, is that Savior. He came pay a price to set all men free from the consequences of sin.

He willingly became one of us – placing himself under the law of God – obligating himself to keeping that law for us so that he could satisfy God's justice in our place. God the Father has justified us on the basis of Christ's perfection. The apostle Paul explains in the book of 2 Corinthians, the 21st verse of chapter 5: (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV) **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

In addition to living a perfect life for us – Jesus also willingly accepted the consequences for the sins of all people. He died in their place. On the cross he experienced an eternity of hell when he was forsaken by God. Paul stresses this fact several verses after our text when he writes: (Romans 6:23 NIV) **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

This is the good news of redemption: that Jesus has set us free from the control of sin, rescued us from the Devil. By his resurrection from the dead Jesus proved that he has also set us free from the curse of eternal death. The apostle Peter reminds us: (1 Peter 1:18-21 NIV) **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, 19) but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20) He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 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.**

Surely it is appropriate that we offer our praises to God the Son who redeemed us and provided us with hope.

God the Father has justified us. We together with all people have been declared not guilty for Jesus' sake. Jesus has redeemed all men. He paid the price to set all men free from the wrath of God. It is through faith in Christ Jesus that we personally claim and will enjoy these blessings from our Triune God.

(John 3:36 NIV) **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."**

When we consider what the Bible teaches about faith, we realize that we have every reason to praise the Holy Spirit because he is the one who gives us faith. Paul speaks of faith as the gift of God in (Ephesians 2:8) **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**

The last verse of our text speaks about this and reminds us that **God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.**

This verse paints a lovely picture of God's working in our hearts. When water is poured out on the ground it adds moisture to the soil so it can produce plants that bear fruit. God pours his love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. God's love is full of comprehension and understanding. He knows exactly what we need for eternal life and he has provided it for us. This love of God is revealed to us in the Gospel which is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. God sends his Spirit to dwell within us and to use the Gospel in Word and Sacraments to build in our hearts a saving faith which rests on Jesus Christ alone for the hope of heaven. Since God has given us the hope of heaven we will never be disappointed. He is faithful to all of his promises. The Spirit will continue to keep our hopes alive through the Word and Sacrament. Now that God's love has been poured into our hearts we are able to produce fruits of faith.

The Father's declaration of not guilty and the Son's acts of redemption affect our lives. We will look for opportunities to praise our Triune God. We'll boast about the justification God has provided for all people, the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and the unfailing hope of heaven we have because the Holy Spirit has been given to us.

Our text talks about the effects God's gracious love will have on our lives. **We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4) perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

The word, rejoice, in this verse could also be translated with the word boast: When we stand in God's grace, we know that we are justified and we are going to live forever in the presence of God's glory. This is something we can boast about. But our boasting isn't limited to what will happen to us in the future. We can also boast about God's working in our lives no matter what the situation. We can even boast in times of suffering. We experience suffering when we feel the pressures of life. There are many troubles that press Christians down. It may be that we feel hard pressed as we struggle to live our lives in keeping with God's will. We might feel pressure as we seek to uphold and defend the truths of his word when all around us ignore it. It may be that we will be called upon to suffer as a martyr for our faith. In any case we can rejoice and boast about situations like that secure in the knowledge that God will use these sufferings for our good.

Do you wonder what that means? It means that as we suffer we will seek out the comfort and assurances of God's word. This will strengthen our faith and draw us closer to our God. The word will give us the courage to continue on without becoming discouraged. This perseverance builds character. It helps us to mature in our faith so that we are able to remain steadfast in the Word. After each episode of trials the Christian who leans on the Lord and his Word will come out of them as a stronger individual. He will become more and more certain of the Lord's grace and love. He will be filled with hope as he looks forward to the day when he will enjoy eternal life with in the presence of the Father who justified him, the son who redeemed him and the Holy Spirit who called him to faith and kept him in the faith. There we will join the angel choirs and all those who believed in the Lord Jesus in giving everlasting praise to the Holy Trinity. May the Holy Spirit keep you strong and faithful all the days of your life! Amen.