435 Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oa7JeVHgiH0)

1 Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain,  
Sinners, ruined by the fall;  
Here a pure and healing fountain  
Flows for you, for me, for all,  
In a full, perpetual tide,  
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,  
Come defiled, without, within;  
From infection and uncleanness,  
From the leprosy of sin,  
Wash your robes and make them white;  
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,  
Wounded, impotent, and blind;  
Here the guilty, free remission,  
Here the troubled, peace may find.  
Health this fountain will restore;  
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;  
‘Tis a soul-renewing flood.  
God is faithful; God will never  
Break His covenant of blood,  
Signed when our Redeemer died,  
Sealed when He was glorified.

Opening Versicles

L This is the day which the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.

C Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,  
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

C Christ was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities.  
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Canticle

C The Lord God is my strength and my song,  
and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the  
well of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:  
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His  
name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

The Lord God is my strength and my song,  
and He has become my salvation.

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done  
gloriously;

Readings From Holy Scripture

2 Samuel 11:6-17, 26-27

A reading from 2 Samuel, the eleventh chapter.

6So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. 8Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” And Uriah went out of the king’s house, and there followed him a present from the king. 9But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10When they told David, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” 11Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my
house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.” 12 Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” 16 And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27 And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Matthew 5:21–22

[Jesus said] 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Resporsory

L We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
L We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

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 and ever. Amen.

613 To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXMLjqTrjmU )

1 To Thee, omniscient Lord of all,
   In grief and shame I humbly call;
   I see my sins against Thee, Lord,
   The sins of thought and deed and word.
   They press me sore; I cry to Thee:
   O God, be merciful to me!
2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:
   O cast me not in wrath away!
   Let Thy good Spirit ne’er depart,
   But let Him draw to Thee my heart
   That truly penitent I be:
   O God, be merciful to me!

3 O Jesus, let Thy precious blood
   Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
   Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,
   But grant that justified I may
   Go to my house at peace with Thee:
   O God, be merciful to me!

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Sermon

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
   C Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R649uj-NPWw)

L Lamb of God, pure and holy,
   Who on the cross didst suffer,
   Ever patient and lowly,
   Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!
Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book
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Sermon:

The Fifth Commandment “You shall not murder” seems straightforward. Human life is valuable and is to be protected and defended. God is clear on that. God gives life and God takes life away. Most Americans agree that murder is wrong, or do we? Well, it depends on how one defines murder. Most can agree it is wrong to stab or shoot someone, except in self-defense. Yet, there were 194 murders in the city of St. Louis in 2019. 4 people were murdered before sunrise on January 1, 2020 with a fifth by noon. Chicago’s murder count was 490 in 2019. Even worse, Abortion became legal in America in 1973. In 2018, more than 42,000 “legal” abortions were reported in Illinois. There is also an epidemic of mass shootings. And it also doesn’t talk about euthanasia, suicide, revenge, neglect, indifference, anger, hatred, or prejudice, all against God’s Will that all human life be protected.

God creates and sustains life. Life, especially human life, is His and His alone to start and end. From conception until God calls them from this world. Life, especially human life, is a gift from God. God would have us help and support our neighbor in every physical or bodily need. In the Fifth Commandment, God forbids murder in all its forms: abortion, euthanasia, suicide, revenge, neglect, indifference, hatred, anger and prejudice. We are to aid our neighbor throughout their life, from the moment of conception until God calls them from this world. This commandment expects us to help and support your neighbor in every physical or bodily need. Every physical or bodily need without qualification.

In our lesson this evening, King David’s army is on a roll. They are soundly defeating the Ammonites. The war is going so well that David doesn’t need to go with the army. David’s enemies are falling one by one. Yet, when David faces what should have been an easy personal battle, he loses this battle, the battle of self-control, a battle that didn’t even need to be fought. Had David been doing what kings do, it would have never happened. Had David turned his eyes away from Bathsheba to avoid sinful lust, it would have never happened. Had David been content with his many wives and concubines, it wouldn’t have happened. The sight of a beautiful woman causes David to covet and to commit adultery, leading to an untimely pregnancy and a cover-up, a cover up leading to murder.

The Bible doesn’t censor or cover up David’s sordid sins. Like all of Scripture, is written "for our instruction" (Rom 15:4). To warn you. "Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor 10: 12) as King David did. In addition, all Scripture is written to comfort you. There is forgiveness for Christ's sake for all sin-no matter how despicable or disgusting. For David’s. For yours. For the world’s. This sermon is your warning if you are smug and secure in your sin. And this sermon is your comfort if you are burdened and oppressed by your sin.

The news of the pregnancy throws David into a panic. David knows God’s Law. He’s got a reputation to protect. He is “a man after God’s heart”. He supposed to be setting a good example. What will the people think? And what does God have to say about it? Leviticus 20:10 reads “If a man commits adultery with the wife of[a] his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” The whole kingdom would be lost if the King were put to death. There’s got to be a way out; a way to cover this up.

Plan A is put into effect. Call husband Uriah back from the war. When he gets home, he’ll sleep with Bathsheba and everyone will think the baby is Uriah’s. Problem solved. Well, no, not exactly. Uriah is a man of character, a soldier with a conscience, devoted to God, duty and his fellow soldiers. Uriah sleeps at David’s door instead. Uriah refuses to go to his wife while his fellow soldiers and the ark of the covenant are at war. Plan A fails!
Plan B goes into effect. Rich food and a lot of wine will stir up Uriah’s desire for Bathsheba. That doesn’t work either. Despite David’s encouragement for Uriah to go to his wife, Uriah once again sleeps at David’s door. Plan B fails too.

So, Plan C is hatched. It's ruthless. Evil. Wicked. Premeditated. Well thought out! Murder in the first degree! David, the warrior, knows how easy it is to die in battle. And Uriah’s character is so upright that David sends Plan C back to the battle in Uriah’s hands. David instructs Joab, the commander of David’s Army, to have Uriah lead a charge and then withdraw, leaving Uriah and others to face a certain death. And best of all, no one would ever question it. In fact, this will give David a chance to call out Uriah as a hero and to comfort Uriah’s grieving wife, making Bathsheba his own wife, after all, the valiant soldier made the ultimate sacrifice. And when the baby comes, everyone will rejoice.

The sin of coveting led to the sin of adultery led to the sin of lying and deceit, led to multiple sins of murder, but everything seems to have played out as King David wanted it to. David’s sin has been covered up. David has gotten away with murder.

Well, no doubt, you're appalled by David's breaking the Fifth Commandment. Rightly so. But how about the times you have broken the Fifth Commandment? Yes, that's right, you and I are murderers too, even if you haven't physically killed anyone. Does that appall you? Just wait. Hear Jesus’s words "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder and whoever murders will be liable to judgment:' So far so good. But then Jesus turns, looks directly at you and me, and boldly proclaims: "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment ... whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire" (Mt 5:21-22). Jesus nailed it. I’ve been angry and called others fool and worse. You have been angry and called others fool and worse. Guilty as charged! Murderers in need of a Savior. On Good Friday, God placed your sins on Jesus. All sin—every sin—was heaped on Jesus. Jesus took your sins, the sinless for the sinful and allowed himself to be murdered for your sins, dying on the cross, to atone for your sins and reconcile the Father to you. All sins – David’s Adultery and murder, Peter’s denial, Paul’s persecution, your murders and my murders – all were paid for by Jesus’s bitter suffering and death.

In response to our salvation, we affirm life from conception to natural death, when God calls one from this world. We support our neighbor in every physical need, as God intended when He created human life on the sixth day. We protect the lives of those who are least able to protect themselves. We serve our neighbors to the glory of God. Amen.