

Holy in Christ

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

7th Sunday after the Epiphany
19 February, A.D. 2017
Lev 19:1-2, 9-18; 1 Cor 3:10-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Children's Message

manifest. *v. fr. L. manifestere. Transitive:* **1.** to show plainly; to make to appear distinctly; to put beyond question or doubt; to display; exhibit; reveal; prove; evince; evidence.

Introduction

CCT: God manifests his perfect _____ in Christ, covers us in that holiness, and sanctifies us for compassion and service.

I. The Holiness of God

A. God Manifests Holiness in Christ

How do we know what holiness is?

Matthew 5:38

The key to understanding the OT:

Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

John 5:39 (ESV)

³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Matthew 5:38–48 (ESV)

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ . . . ⁴⁸ ***You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.***

Matthew 5:20 (ESV)

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Can *you* be perfect?

Who *can* be perfect?

Jesus is ⁴ . . . is patient and kind; [Jesus] does not envy or boast; [Jesus] is]not arrogant ⁵ or rude. [Jesus does not insist on its own way; [Jesus] is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ [Jesus] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ [Jesus] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ [Jesus’] Love never ends. . . .
(1 Cor 13.4-8)

What does Jesus do with His perfection/holiness?

Matthew 27:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

John 19:30 (ESV)

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PRESENTATION

Do **YOU** know the difference between Alzheimer's and Dementia?

- † Are they the same?
- † How would I know if I had either one?
- † What can I do to help a loved one who has Alzheimer's?

Come and hear our speaker, Joni Barrie-Hoffman, speak on Alzheimer's disease. She is a certified Dementia Practitioner.

Date: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29th**

Time: **RIGHT AFTER THE 12:15 PM MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE**

Place: **ST. PAUL'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by St. Paul's Stephen Ministry.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

You hear it all the time: "We all worship the same god," "All paths lead to god," "All these people can't be wrong," "It's just a matter of interpretation," etc.

We, however, believe in "one God, the Father Almighty... and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God... God of God, Light of Light, very God and very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made...And [we] believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified..."

Eegads! Do we really need to say all those words?

Well... as it turns out: Yes.

The Nicene Creed affirms that God has come into human history in Jesus Christ, that He is fully and eternally God, the final Word, the "Alpha and Omega"; therefore, there cannot be someone else more like God that might appear. He--Christ--is the way, truth, and life.

Indeed, the Creed is not an obscure assortment of words. During Lent 2017 we will show how those words--the confession they make--stand as a necessary, stark contrast to nihilistic secularism, many-god pantheisms, the indifference of the modern coexist movement, the progressive revelation monism of Islam, ancient and modern pharisaic Christianity, potpourristic Mormonism, and big box consumer Christianity.

We will attempt to draw these distinctions in ways that children and adults can understand and use in their witness of Christ.

1. Wed, Mar 8, 2017. Behold, a Mystery! What is a creed and why do we say this? (i.e., "What you say can matter eternally.")
2. Wed, Mar 15, 2017. Glory to God in the Highest: Jesus is God (i.e., "Yes, Arius, this is actually pretty important.")
3. Wed, Mar 22, 2017. Glory be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: One God in Three Persons. (i.e., "No, Charles, you can't re-write the text to make it fit your presupposition.")
4. Wed, Mar 29, 2017. Watch Out for the Watchtower: The Trinity and the Resurrection of the Body (i.e., "Charles, Arius was wrong 1700 years ago, and he's still wrong.")
5. Wed, Apr 5, 2017. Who Cares about The Cross? The Perils of the Prosperity Gospel (i.e., "Dude, you've got a nice smile, but you're cheating people to make money.")

Divine Services at 12:15 and 6:30 p.m., with 15 minute Lenten hymn-sing beforehand.

It is completed. The Holy and Righteous One had kept His promise for us.

How do we know this is true?

B. Christ is Our Holiness

And--grace upon grace--God calls _____ into His Kingdom.

Galatians 3:27 (ESV)

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Romans 6:4 (ESV)

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV)

³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

_____ is our holiness, our perfection. You, through _____ in Christ, are *holy*.

II. Living in Christ's Holiness

Sanctified = "declared _____," "set apart for _____ service."

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Leviticus 19:1–2 (ESV)

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Leviticus 19:9–18 (ESV)

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 27:30 (ESV)

³⁰ "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD.

According to Lev 19, what is a consequence of being God's holy people?

Conclusion

CCT: God manifests his perfect holiness in Christ, covers us in that holiness, and sanctifies us for compassion and service.