

Worship November 13, 2022 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Dade City Florida

Sermon Notes “Judgment to Rejoicing!”

Who do you imitate?

Who imitates you?

What impact do you want to make in our world today and for the days to come?

Our Scripture readings for today provide a contrast between God’s judgment and the rejoicing of God’s forgiven and faithful people.

Memory Verses: Psalm 98:4 “⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”

2 Thessalonians 3:3&5 “³But the LORD is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.... ⁵May the LORD direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”

Difficulty in rejoicing ...

**since fall of Adam and Eve into sin / disobedience of God ...
God’s solution to have true joy and life in His name.**

Scripture helps us seek justice, and transition from judgment to the freedom and joy of the good news that Jesus came to rescue us from our bondage to sin that we might live in the grace and mercy of a loving God to know His forgiveness as we humbly come before Him with repentant hearts.

Last book of the Old Testament... Malachi = “My Messenger.”

questions ...“Where is the God of justice?” (Mal 2:17)

the Day of Judgment is coming. but Messenger of the new covenant, Jesus Christ, came to suffer and die for the sins of the world. Christ will come again, “not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.” (Hebr. 9:28)

“Why does the way of the wicked prosper?” (Jeremiah 12:1)

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.”

Malachi 4 concludes with the Lord’s announcement that Judgment Day is coming. Those refusing to repent leads to utter destruction. But for those who fear His name, ... rejoicing. John the Baptist called people to repentance & faith in the coming Savior.

Paul in 2nd Corinthians 6, invited a commitment to Jesus Christ & proclaimed: “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation....” Luther offered words of encouragement when commenting on the words, ...as dying, and behold, we live...

Luther wrote: “God often allows His children to be powerless and oppressed, so that everybody believes that they have no more hope and are going to perish, whilst it is in circumstances like these that God is actually closest to them. ...where human power goes in, there God’s power goes out. (Luther’s writings, 7. Bd. S.586)

Would you like to follow and imitate the Apostle Paul and be encouraged when he reminds ...”the Lord is faithful.” And may we hear the LORD’s promise that “He will establish us and guard us from the evil one...” Recall the Lord’s promises & Make a joyful noise...

Loving Hands, Dade City./House of Hope, Leesburg testimonies

God is righteous and just and offers His mercy and forgiveness to all who believe on his Name and receive the gift of life and salvation through Jesus Christ, our LORD and Savior.

Let’s Pray:

Lord Jesus, keep us ever watchful and repentant until your return. Thank you for being our Savior and Redeemer. Let us ever sing your joyful praises.

Amen.

Now may the LORD direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. May the Lord of peace himself give you peace and joy at all times in every way. May the Grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, be with you all. ... Amen.