

Sermon followed by Service- October 12, 2025- Romans 5:8-10

The stink-eye. You've seen it, haven't you? It's more than a look. It's a look that packs a threat, packs a punch - "You're wrong. You're not doing what you should be doing. You're not doing what I want. You better get it right, or else." On the face of a one-year-old, a stink-eye might seem cute. By two or three, it's not cute any more. A house with stink-eye, a workplace with stink-eye, a little corner of the world with stink-eye can quickly turn into an ugly, ugly place. And it doesn't have to be a real stink-eye, does it? See a stink eye or just imagine a stink eye and things can get ugly, quickly.

The stink-eye - that look, that threat, that punch - "You're wrong. You're not doing what I want; you're not doing what you should be doing. You better get it right or else." That look, that punch can be demoralizing, crushing - "What did I do wrong now? Now what? When's it going to end?" Being on the wrong end of the stink-eye gets old, doesn't it? But that look doesn't just tire us, exhaust us; it can antagonize us: "You give me that ugly look, I'll give you a look even uglier."

Some days we might see or imagine we're getting the stink-eye at home, at school, at work. Some days it might seem as if the whole world has a stink-eye for us. So what do we do? Some days, we might try to steel ourselves, to harden our hearts - "You don't bother me." Some days, we might try "lie, deny, blame, excuse" - "I didn't do it; it's not my fault; she started it; I couldn't help it." Some days, we might just turn up the heat and

fight ugly with uglier. And some days, we might show love and try to understand.

Why am I talking about stink-eye? Some days, when we see that stink-eye look, when it seems like the whole world has the stink-eye for us, it can feel like God has the stink-eye for us - “You’re wrong. You’re not doing what you should be doing. You better get it right, or else.” And what do we do? Some days, we might steel ourselves, harden our hearts to God - “I don’t care what you say.” Some days, we try “lie, deny, blame, excuse” - “I didn’t do it; it’s not my fault; she started it; I couldn’t help it.” Some days, we just turn up the heat and fight against God - “I’m going to do what I want.”

Our lesson today sets us up for a better answer. When it seems God is giving us the stink-eye, what do we do? We realize God would have good reason to give us the stink-eye. With the way we blow God off for our more important fun and games, with the way we blow God off because we think we know better, with the way we blow God off when he’s not doing what we want, with the way we give God the stink-eye ... God would have good reason not just to give us the stink-eye, but after all he has done for us he would have good reason to be filled with a holy wrath, to treat us as enemies, to damn us to hell. So when it feels like God is giving us the stink-eye, it’s always a really good idea, instead of fighting back, instead of giving God the stink-eye look, to give ourselves a look, a look inside: “Am I walking with God? Listening to God? Following him? Or am I doing my own thing?” And then, instead of hardening myself; instead of lie,

deny, blame, excuse; instead of fighting back against God - “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

How does our lesson set us up for that better answer? Instead of seeing God looking at us with a stink-eye, we get to see God looking at us with love. Instead of dark anger in his eyes, a look of care. Instead of a scowl on his face, a welcome smile. Why? Not because we’re cute. Not because he sees some good in us. Not because we’ve suffered enough, or because we’ve done enough good to change his mind - none of that is true in God’s courtroom. And certainly not because he’s changed his mind about sin, because he hasn’t. God remains true to his justice, his holiness, his hatred of sin, and his judgment. But no matter what you have done in your past, no matter what you struggle with today, God looks at you with love. Why? Because of Jesus.

Listen to Paul: **“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Did you notice? **“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** What does that mean for us? Jesus took our sin, the sin God hates; and Jesus took our place as sinner under the wrath of God; and Jesus died the death we deserve. Now, by Jesus’ death, by his blood, you are justified. In God’s court of justice, God sees your sin paid for. God sees your sin gone which means he doesn’t see your sin on you, or my sin on me, or the world’s sin on the world. Instead, in his courtroom, God sees you and declares you sinless, innocent, righteous. Now, if that is true, because that is true, we don’t have to see God as angry at us. On

that day called Judgment Day, we won't see God angry against us; instead, we will be saved from God's wrath through Jesus!

It gets better. This isn't just God the Judge dropping his charges against you, declaring you innocent, sending you on your way - "Good luck, make sure I don't see you in here again." No, we get to live a new relationship with God. Paul says: **"when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son."** Did you notice what Paul said? **"When we were God's enemies."** He didn't say: "after we got our act together," or "after we made up for what we had done," or anything like that. But **"when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son."** Instead of God seeing you as enemy, an enemy against him, an enemy to be crushed, God sees you differently; God sees you reconciled to him; he sees you with grace and peace.

That doesn't mean God has changed our hearts so that there's no God-fight in us; our old, sinful nature still fights against God til the day we die. And being reconciled to God doesn't mean God has changed his heart so he's no longer angered by sin; in his holiness he still hates sin; in his justice, he still damns the sinner. But "being reconciled to God" does mean that now, because of Jesus, God sees you without your sin; he doesn't see anything against you, so instead of seeing you as enemy he sees you as friend, instead of seeing you with anger, he sees you in peace.

I know I said this before, but it gets better; yes, even better. Jesus didn't make the ultimate sacrifice and die for us just to

stand down. God didn't reconcile us to himself just to stand aside. **“If, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”** Does your past have you seeing God as angry? Do your struggles today have you seeing God as angry? With Jesus, you will be saved from God’s anger. Does it seem that life, that the world around you has nothing but a stink-eye for you? Do you ever look in the mirror and see a giant stink-eye staring back at you? With Jesus, you will be saved to live life the way it’s supposed to be; you will be saved for a life of peace. With Jesus, we don’t need to live a life of fear and guilt; one moment kicking ourselves, the next moment kicking at God; one moment, lying and denying, the next moment blaming and excusing. We don’t have to live a stink-eye life. We are set free from the stink-eye in us and around us. We are justified and reconciled, forgiven and given peace with God - all in Jesus. Amen.

October 11 & 12, 2025

NEW MORNING PRAISE

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we see faces, peoples, powers against us in so many ways.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see God for us in Jesus.

OPENING HYMN

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundations"

Hymn 920

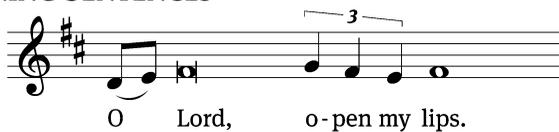
Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your lovingkindness, hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction speak within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all your faithful all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

OPENING SENTENCES



And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Hasten to save me, O God.



O Lord, come quickly to help me.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Come, O come, let us wor - ship.

COME, O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



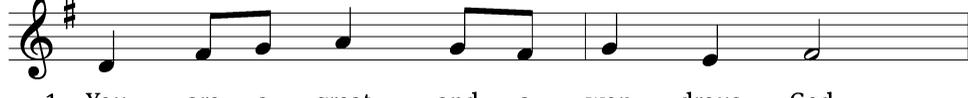
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

SCHOOL CHILDREN SING (SUNDAY)

“Pray About Everything”

*Don't worry about anything, Instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need And thank Him for what He has done.
Don't worry, instead pray. Don't worry, instead pray.
Don't worry about anything, Instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need And thank Him for all He has done.
Don't worry, instead pray. Don't worry, instead pray.
If you do this, if you do this. Then His peace will guard your hearts and minds
As you live, as you live, as you live in Christ Jesus.
Don't worry, instead pray. Don't worry, instead pray. Instead pray, Instead pray.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people the confidence that comes from your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, living and dying and rising for us, that the forgiveness of sins confessed in WELS for the last 175 years be our clear message until he comes again in glory to reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-

15

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:8–10

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 5:8

Alleluia. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:9–

14

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of

natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

"Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"

Hymn 573

Jesus, your blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day; who can a word against me say?
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe your precious blood, which at the very throne of God
pleads for the captives' liberty, was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more than sands upon the ocean shore,
you have for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
this then shall be my only plea: Jesus has lived and died for me.

Jesus, be worshiped endlessly! Your boundless mercy has for me,
for me and all your hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.

SERMON

Romans 5:8-10

HYMN

"In Christ Alone"

Hymn 510

In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all; here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe;
this gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



(You heard our school children sing today. Tuition Grant Fund envelopes are available in the pew rack to support affordable tuition for our school.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: **Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

"Christ the Eternal Lord"

Hymn 521 vs. 1-3

Christ the eternal Lord, whose promise here we claim,
whose gifts of grace are freely poured on all who name your name;
with thankfulness and praise we stand before your throne,
intent to serve you all our days and make your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word to ev'ry passing age,
whose timeless teachings still are heard set forth on Scripture's page;
transform our thought and mind, enlighten all who read,
within your Word by faith to find the bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son who shares our human birth,
and by his death salvation won for ev'ry child of earth;
inspire our hearts, we pray, to tell your love abroad,
that all may honor Christ today and follow him as Lord.

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We set the table for the Lord!
We set up for the best hour of the week!
We set up for our family fellowship time!

The service of Altar Guild members reflects our attitude toward our worship services. The care joyfully given this task reflects our love for the Lord and His house, our church.

Serving with Altar Guild doesn't require a great amount of time, just a few hours, a few weekends per year. Everyone is assigned a partner to help with duties. Instructions are readily available and new members are paired with veteran members.

Please consider serving with us on Altar Guild, helping us keep the Lord's house beautiful. If you have questions or are ready to join us, please contact by email, or catch me on Sundays. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Thank you and God Bless,
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