

Sermon Draft

Text: Hebrews 10:11–25

Sermon: “Good Days, Bad Days” (By His Blood)

On this second-last Sunday of the Church Year, the Propers point to **“the end,” “the Day drawing near,” “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** The Propers account for the destruction to be seen on that day, but also the day’s deliverance and the Church’s enduring confidence as that day draws near.

In Daniel we learned, **“there shall be a time of trouble,”** As the temple was destroyed in AD 70 (Mark 13:2), so destructive **“birth pangs”** will precede the end (Mark 13:8).

We are all aware that, “There are good days, and there are bad days.” Why are some days better than others? Sometimes we know. Sometimes we do not. What kind of day is today? According to Hebrews, today is a bloody day. But it is not the first or the last of its kind. There will be a bloody day.

Blood, violence, and destruction will mark the Last Day and even the days before it. This is what the world has coming on account of sin! This is what we have coming on account of sin (Romans 6:23)!

Who will be delivered from this bloody destruction? In our Old Testament reading we learn: ***“But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”*** They will be the ***“saints,” “the excellent ones”*** in whom the Lord delights, who will not ***“see corruption”*** but walk ***“the path of life”*** (Psalm 16:3, 10–11). Are you a saint?

They will be ***“those who are wise”*** and therefore ***“shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever”*** (Daniel 12:3). Are you wise? Have you turned many to righteousness? They will be ***“the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”*** (Revelation 7:14). Will we be delivered from the bloody destruction? Yes, for there has already been a bloody day for you and me.

The bloody day Jesus sacrificed himself. On the day of his bloody destruction, Jesus fulfilled all prior sacrifices, the whole priesthood, and even the temple destined for destruction with ***“a single sacrifice”*** (v 12). None of our sacrifices or our self-justifications have any power to save us.

Jesus was delivered over to a bloody death and destroyed in order to deliver us from the coming destruction we deserve, the righteous for the unrighteous. Jesus sanctified us.

Jesus has cleansed us by his blood and forgiven us all our sins. Jesus has claims us by his blood to be his holy one, his saint.

Jesus has opened for you and me the ***“new and living way”*** to approach God and stand before him in holiness now and forever. Jesus’ flesh did not ***“see corruption.”*** He rose and lives and reigns to all eternity. He is present now by his Word and Spirit. Therefore . . .

This is a bloody day. Jesus is present with us, in his body and blood, as our ***“new and living way”*** to enter the presence of God in ***“confidence.”***

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh..”

Therefore, we ***“draw near”*** and joyfully walk ***“the path of life.”***

The processional cross provides a picture of God and his Church. God calls his Church to ***“draw near with a true heart.”***

We can only enter as we follow Christ. Christ leads us in as we process behind the processional cross. We come sins confessed receiving his absolution, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. Then forgiven and cleansed from sin, we come before God the Father with a good conscience along the holy way that Christ provides, from earth to heaven, symbolized by the aisle that goes from the nave into the sanctuary, the open way that Christ has prepared for us by his death and resurrection. Our Lord's Word of pardon opens the door for us to into the heavenly realm into God's holy presence.

It is by Jesus' blood and with Jesus himself that the congregation enters the presence of God. Once there, the Spirit shapes the Church in conformity to Christ and his cross, filling the Church with faith, hope, and love by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus calls us to ***“draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”*** (v 22). He calls us to live as one who has been cleansed by his blood. We enter here by his blood, and we will enter his heaven by his blood.

Jesus calls us to ***“hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering”*** (v23). We are confident to stand before God on the Last Day because of Jesus’ blood. Christ calls us to live toward the future he has prepared, not against it, in attitude or action.

Jesus calls us to ***“consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”*** (v 24). He calls us to forget ourselves and remember others, not neglecting them, but being compassionate for them as he has had compassion for us by his blood. As we draw near the Holy Spirit descends to destroy us and deliver us through Jesus’ blood. ***“And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”***

The Spirit aims to ***“release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves”*** (Collect).

The Spirit aims to put to death self-centered ways in us by writing his laws on your heart and minds.

He delivers us. Just as he delivered us on the day we were “washed,” when our names were “written in the book” he does so today. Just as he has forgotten our sins through absolution many times before, he absolves us today and forgets them again. Just as he has brought us near to him **“by the blood of Jesus”** (v 19), he does so again today by Jesus’ blood in his Supper.

Today is a bloody day as the Spirit sanctifies us, makes us holy by Jesus’ blood, and gives us all the gifts Christ won for us by his sacrifice on the cross. Therefore, every day is a bloody day. By the blood of Jesus, we, God’s Church, are the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31: **“Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.”**

***“And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above;
and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”***

(Daniel 12:3) Now, every day is a day to be the Church by the blood of Jesus.

Every day, we are cleansed by Jesus’ blood. Every day, we are confident by
Jesus’ blood. Every day, we are compassionate by Jesus’ blood.

So, then, you might have good days and bad days. But every day, even the
Last Day, is a bloody day, a day defined by Jesus’ Blood for us.

Amen