

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Pastor Godkin's Sermon for the week of August 22, 2010

The Narrow Door: Repentance and Faith in Jesus Christ (Luke 13:22-30)

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Our text is from the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke:

*And Jesus said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."*

This is the text.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, what are your plans for lunch today? If you plan to go to a restaurant you may hope that you can get there before all these seats are filled up. Probably when you get there you would like to be seated soon and be able to enjoy your meal. But what if when you arrive you find that all these seats have been reserved and there is no place for you to sit?

If you plan to go to a restaurant you may hope that you can get there before all these seats are filled up. Probably when you get there you would like to be seated soon and be able to enjoy your meal. But what if when you arrive you find that all these seats have been reserved and there is no place for you to sit?

Imagine that all the other restaurants were closed, spoiled, and all your neighbours were in a similar situation. You only choice would be to watch through the window as large platters of food were reserved to those inside the restaurant. Crisp, fresh salads, the finest meats and vegetables, the best of breads and drinks were being enjoyed with dessert waiting in the wings.

Imagine that all the other restaurants were closed, spoiled, and all your neighbours were in a similar situation. You only choice would be to watch through the window as large platters of food were reserved to those inside the restaurant. Crisp, fresh salads, the finest meats and vegetables, the best of breads and drinks were being enjoyed with dessert waiting in the wings.

If you can imagine this scenario, you might understand disappointment that will be experienced by those outside the Kingdom of God on the Last Day. In fact, their disappointment will be much greater than simply missing a meal at a local restaurant. Their loss is so terrible that they will weep and gnash their teeth with no hope of ever getting in the Kingdom of God.

If you can imagine this scenario, you might understand disappointment that will be experienced by those outside the Kingdom of God on the Last Day. In fact, their disappointment will be much greater than simply missing a meal at a local restaurant. Their loss is so terrible that they will weep and gnash their teeth with no hope of ever getting in the Kingdom of God.

But today it is not our intent to weep and gnash teeth about the Kingdom we are invited to believe that God has prepared a place for you in His Kingdom.

But today it is not our intent to weep and gnash teeth about the Kingdom we are invited to believe that God has prepared a place for you in His Kingdom.

In fact, when Christ died on the cross He made it possible for any one to enter His Kingdom. He paid for the world's sins, yours, mine, and each person who would ever live. The horrible, tragic reality is, however, that the vast majority refuse to believe and squander this gift of eternal life. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, will those who are saved believe in you?" Peter saw first hand many people in the presence of Jesus and hearing His words but very few people willing to follow Him.

In fact, when Christ died on the cross He made it possible for any one to enter His Kingdom. He paid for the world's sins, yours, mine, and each person who would ever live. The horrible, tragic reality is, however, that the vast majority refuse to believe and squander this gift of eternal life. Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, will those who are saved believe in you?" Peter saw first hand many people in the presence of Jesus and hearing His words but very few people willing to follow Him.

Consider the lifestyles that are paraded before our eyes on television and in the movies. Much of the popular music today from Rock to Hip Hop is basically every genre is packed with imagery of the occult, encouraging sexual experimentation, glorifying violence and greed for money. Oftentimes, any Christian teaching that may be found in films and TV are watered down and disconnected from God's Word of judgement and His promise of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the lifestyles that are paraded before our eyes on television and in the movies. Much of the popular music today from Rock to Hip Hop is basically every genre is packed with imagery of the occult, encouraging sexual experimentation, glorifying violence and greed for money. Oftentimes, any Christian teaching that may be found in films and TV are watered down and disconnected from God's Word of judgement and His promise of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sadly it seems as though even in the church, not many are being saved. The average Sunday worship attendance in most churches is less than 50% of the membership. And

Sadly it seems as though even in the church, not many are being saved. The average Sunday worship attendance in most churches is less than 50% of the membership. And



will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, Lord!"

Salvation is a gift earned by Christ and yet we face from the lures of this world, and from the temptations of the devil, that threaten to take the life of the Lord Jesus Christ goes from us a constant struggle against the devil's Word of grace and promise we have in Christ.

God invites us to know Him and to be known by Him, with Himself. That is why Jesus Christ came into the world and drank with people and taught in their streets. He came by us.

How many job promotions come to those who don't need it is "who you know" or "who knows you" that get so place. The same is true of God, with a different twist. Kingdom because all have sinned and fall short of His are known by God are welcomed into His Kingdom. We Baptized into Christ we are called to live in daily Christ. Through Him we are wonderfully known by our

We can be known by God even though He knows all about hidden corners of our lives. He loves us and He invites us into His Kingdom and to give Him. And let the light of His Word make and Spirit He helps us overcome these things each day if we are willing.

In the Kingdom of God there will be wonderful fellowship with the King of kings Himself. What a wonderful joy to have for you and me in the Kingdom. I can hardly wait! Thank Christ. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him now and then that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts a

to God—through Jesus Christ our

Lord. He attacks all around us, from within, and from the devil that threatens to take the life of the Lord Jesus Christ goes from us a constant struggle against the devil's Word of grace and promise we

He brings us into a relationship with the world. That is why Jesus came and to be near to know us and to be known

do we necessarily deserve them? So often we do not get the promotion or a job in the first place. No one deserves to enter God's Kingdom by merit. Nevertheless, those who know God through faith. Being baptized into Christ we are called to live in daily repentance and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we are wonderfully known by our loving Heavenly Father.

We can be known by God even though He knows all about hidden corners of our lives. He loves us and He invites us into His Kingdom and to give Him. And let the light of His Word make and Spirit He helps us overcome these things each day if we are willing.

In the Kingdom of God there will be wonderful fellowship with the King of kings Himself. What a wonderful joy to have for you and me in the Kingdom. I can hardly wait! Thank Christ. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him now and then that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts a