



God at Work – In the Church

October 24/25, 2018

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Welcome & Opening Prayer

Opening Questions:

- What is “Church”? (P. 120 *“God at Work”*)
- What are the special, unique spiritual realities that God works only through His Church? List them.

Read Exodus 16:9-15

- 1) What jumps out at you when Moses writes about “congregation”?
- 2) Who was the leader of God’s Chosen People? Was God hidden?
- 3) How did God speak? What did God expect from His people? You?

Read Romans 10:13-17

- 1) How do you have faith? How is faith preserved and strengthened?
- 2) What is “Word & Sacrament” ministry?
- 3) Describe how Christ is hidden, but still at work in His Church?
- 4) What REALLY is going on in “boring, irrelevant” church?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

- 1) What jumps out at you when you think of “church”?
- 2) What is the work God commissions His Church to do?
- 3) What does Jesus promise? How does Jesus make good on His promise (past, present and future)?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 (*Stewards of God’s Grace*) – Story

- 1) Who owns grace? Who administers grace for the owner? How?
- 2) “Church” *connects you* to who? What? Spiritual kingdom? Local institution? Both? Timeline - past, present & future?
- 3) Is this comforting? Encouraging? Boring? Old fashioned? Exciting? Do you take it for granted? Explain. **Reflect on Luther’s hymn →**

Closing Prayer

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need
That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpow’r us.
This world’s prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He’s judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,
Our vict’ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

(Martin Luther – LSB #656)