



St. James Lutheran Church

Reflecting the Light of Christ in Crystal

Gospel "E"

Weekly Email Newsletter

May 19, 2015

Devotion

Friends in Christ,

We are having a lot of baptisms at St. James, thanks be to God! In baptism, we proclaim that we die a death like Christ's in order that we may be reborn to a life like his. This meditation by Frederick Bueckner offers a challenging, thought provoking insight into the gods which are dying because Christ lives:

“THE GODS ARE DYING. The gods of this world are sick unto death. If someone does not believe this, the next time he happens to wake up in the great silence of the night or of the day, just listen. And after a while, at the heart of the silence, he will hear the sound that gives it away: the soft, crazy thud of the feet of the gods as they stagger across the earth; the huge white hands fluttering like moths; the little moans of bewilderment and anguish. And we all shudder at the sound because to witness the death of gods is a fearsome thing.

Which gods? The gods that we worship. The gods that our enemies worship. Their sacred names? There is Science, for one: he who was to redeem the world from poverty and disease, on whose mighty shoulders mankind was to be borne onward and upward toward the high stars. There is Communism, that holy one so terrible in his predilection for blood sacrifice but so magnificent in his promise of the messianic age: from each according to his ability, to each according to his need. Or Democracy, that gentler god with his gospel of freedom for all peoples, including those people who after centuries of exploitation and neglect at the hands of the older democracies can be set free now only to flounder in danger of falling prey to new exploiters. And we must not leave out from this role of the dying what often passes for the god of the church: the god who sanctifies our foreign policy and our business methods, our political views and our racial prejudices. The god who, bless him, asks so little and promises so much: peace of mind, the end of our inferiority complexes. Go to church and feel better. The family that prays together stays together. Not everybody can afford a psychiatrist or two weeks of solid rest in the country, but anybody can afford this god. He comes cheap.

These are the gods in whom the world has puts its ultimate trust. Some of them are our particular gods, and there are plenty of others, each can name for himself. And where are they now? They are dying, dying, and their twilight thickens into night. Where is the security that they promised? Where is the peace? The terrible truth is that the gods of this world are no more worthy of our ultimate trust than are the men who created them. Conditional trust, not ultimate trust.” - Originally published in *The Magnificent Defeat*

Love in Christ,
Pastor Randy

Summer Worship Begins Sunday

We will move to one worship service for the summer beginning on May 24 at 9:30 a.m. May 24 is also Pentecost, so please wear red to worship.



Mark your Calendar

- 5-25 Office Closed
- 5-27 Choir Picnic
- 5-30 Spring Craft Retreat

Communications Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete this communications survey online at the link below. Survey will close on June 14.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M55L89H>

Contact Us

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