

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 19 AUGUST 2012 HOLY COMMUNION

Sing before: Psalm 19:5

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Scripture Versification 5-4:1, 2, 5, 6

Confession of faith: Apostolic

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

Amen.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 34:7

Law

Psalm: 34:7

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 119:3

Scripture reading: Romans 11

Scripture text: Romans 11:7

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded

Romans 11:7

The work of the Lord Jesus Christ is summarized by this text:

- He dies for the salvation and redemption of all the chosen.
- But He also dies for the blinding of those reckless about faith.

Israel wanted to work for salvation. In the letter to the Romans they are helped back on track.

- Their zeal for salvation was based in their disbelief.
- Their zeal was completely aimed at a wrong direction.

No person can bend the justice of God – we all bow to the justice of God.

The Romans saw the Jewish people in their relationship to God.

- They saw some serving the Lord with their whole hearts.
- Others they saw were despondent.
- And others they saw were disloyal and hardened.

Not everybody in the congregation of Rome were Jews, some were converted Romans. Now they wanted to know what conclusion they had to come to after seeing the people of Israel.

Then, due to God's description in this chapter, the matter becomes clear.

- The redemption rests with God's freeing predestination and not with the zeal of Israel.
- But that does not mean that the Lord pushed aside the Israelites and only rendered His grace to the heathens.
- Hereby the Lord prevents the heathens from falsely becoming proud and despising the Jews.

Verse 2 gives us the assurance we are looking for:

God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.

We also fall under these people God foreknew. This we read in Ephesians 1:4:

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

Ephesians 1:4

- Therefore this verse of Scripture is so important to us.
- God will never cast us aside.
- He never breaks His covenant.
- He also never goes back on His promises.

The Bible quotes the example of Eliah.

- There was a time when he had to flee for his life and he thought that he was the only believer left.
- Then the Lord answered him that there are still seven thousand men left who has not knelt to Baal.

Let us first apply our verse of Scripture to what is written here.

- All the people of Israel sought their salvation by the service to Baal – there they found no salvation
- The Lord hardened the royal house and a part of the people – so that God could punish them.
- But the Lord looked after the seven thousand chosen. He says:
"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."
 (Romans 11:4)

Our text of Scripture:

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded
 Romans 11:7

Then we proceed to verse 5 where we are brought from Eliah to the present:

Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.
 (Romans 11:5)

Here the Holy Spirit puts us into the bright light of God's mercy

- Because we are the chosen we may join the table of the sacrament of the Holy Communion –
- We may commemorate that the grace of God's predestination in fact went into fulfillment over us through the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this sacrament we thank the Father that we are not hardened but that in fact we may obtain the salvation in our Lord Jesus.

This portion also sharply addresses our responsibility.

- Israel, because their zeal was wrong, did not find what they sought.
- Their religious attempt was not up to scratch.
- They wanted to work out their salvation in a worldly way - and then lost their salvation because they lost God.

Therefore the Lord took revenge on them.

- He hardened them because they wanted to do things in the wrong way.
- He wanted to destroy them because they differed from His will.

But the Lord does not only punish.

- He visited the chosen and worked life into their hearts

- Obedience
- Gratitude
- Love towards Him and for each other.
- The chosen obtained the salvation because they did not search salvation in a worldly way.

Come join the table of Holy Communion like this.

- Seek all that is good, where the Lord Jesus Christ is spiritually and with continual obedience to God and love towards Him.
- Do so continually with zeal serving the Lord.
- Also do it as from leaving this table till eternity.

Amen.

Prayer

Psalm 98:2

Formulary

Psalm 23:3

To the table

During Holy Communion: Psalm 116

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 33:1

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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 Scripture Modern King James Version