

The Threefold Blessing Bestowed By The Holy Trinity.

Text: Num 6:22-27

1) Jehovah's Preservation By The Father

Suggested Hymns:

2) Jehovah's Grace By The Son

140, 139, 141, 521T364, 296

3) Jehovah's Peace By The Holy Spirit

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is Numbers 6:22-27, ²² *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:* ²³ *“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel.*

Say to them: ²⁴ *“The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”*

²⁷ *“So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”* (NKJV)

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Today the Christian Church celebrates the festival of the Holy Trinity. While at the other church festivals we meditate upon some great act of God, today we emphasise a fact, a fact that is basic for our faith.

This fact is the doctrine of the *“Holy Trinity, the undivided Unity,”* one God, existing in three distinct Persons — the Triune God. This is the God of the Bible.

We read in Deuteronomy 6:4, ⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!* This one God exists in three distinct Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as we learn from Matthew 28:19, ¹⁹ *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the*

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Three Persons, one God, the Lord Jehovah.

Never did the Father have self-existence without the Son and the Holy Spirit, or the Son without the Father and the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit without the Father and the Son.

This is the God in whom we believe, whom we worship and adore, the God of all ages, the God of the faithful in the Old Testament and the God of the Christians of the New Testament, the God *“from everlasting to everlasting.”*¹ This doctrine of the Triune God will always be and remain a mystery to our thinking.

However, it is not taught in the Bible for the purpose of furnishing food for human speculation, but to furnish food for our faith, that we may learn to know this God, and to know Him as the Source of all our blessings, material and spiritual, temporal and eternal.

These blessings, which are to be appropriated by faith, are mentioned in our text. They are the threefold blessing bestowed by the Holy Trinity. May the Lord bless our meditation.

1. Jehovah's Preservation By The Father

Our text, the Aaronic blessing, not only reminds us of the Holy Trinity, but also assures us of the fact that the God Jehovah has blessings in store for us. These blessings are to be conveyed to, and appropriated by, His children.

Our text says, *‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:* ²⁴ *“The LORD bless you and keep you. Yes, the Lord is our Keeper. We read in Psalm 121:8, ⁸ The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.*

It is not by accident that the universe came into existence. This was done by the design and the creative power of God. God created the world

in six days and rested on the seventh.² It is not by accident that the world is existing to this day. This is done by the design and the preserving power of God.

Therefore the child of God will not only confess, *“I believe that God has made me and all creatures,”* but will confidently add, *“and still preserves me”* as we learn in *Luther’s Small Catechism*. Every one of God’s children is under the providential care of an almighty, all-wise, ever-present, good, and kind heavenly Father.

The children of Israel had experienced all of this in their wide and varied travels and life. In years of depression and want God provided for them through Joseph. After years of oppression He delivered them from the Egyptians through Moses. In their long and trying journey in the wilderness God guided and protected them. He fed them day by day and even sweetened the bitter waters of Marah³ that they might again be refreshed. God granted them victory upon victory over their enemies and finally gave them possession of the Promised Land.

And Israel’s God is also our God. Under all the varied conditions and circumstances in our lives the Lord, Jehovah, is our Keeper. In our occupation and profession, in hours of happiness and in times of grief, in sickness and in health, when we work and when we rest, by day and by night, from the time of our coming into this world to the day of our departure, the Father in heaven will never depart from us nor forsake us.

We read in *Luther’s Small Catechism*, in the explanation to the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, *“He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this He does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.”*

Why, then, worry? Many a pleasant day is spoiled by unnecessary worrying. How much health and happiness have we wrecked by needless

worry! Mothers worry from the time that their boys or girls go to school until they return, imagining all manner of untoward happening and danger which may befall the little ones.

Fathers and mothers worry when sons and daughters leave the parental roof to go out into the world. Why not bid them a cheerful goodbye, which means, “*God be with you,*” and commend them to the Father’s care?

We read in Matthew 6:31-32, ³¹ “*Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*” ³² “*For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* And in 1 Peter 5:7, ⁷ *Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

All of these things is what is meant in our text when it says, *The LORD bless you and keep you.* Yes, be assured of Jehovah’s preservation by the Father, who for Jesus’ sake is your Father.

2. Jehovah’s Grace By The Son

For Jesus’ sake God is your Father. Our text continues, ²⁵ *The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you.* This is the second blessing — Jehovah’s grace by the Son.

Ever since the fall of man there has been a disturbing element in the world — sin. Sin is disturbing as to its nature and as to its consequences. Sin is opposition to God, rebellion against Him and His holy will. Sin is transgression of the commandments of God. Sin is the direct opposite of the very essence of God.

And the consequences of sin are unspeakably sad. Sin severed the happy relation that existed between God and man; thus we lost the created righteousness and incurred God’s wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.

Man was at variance with his Maker. And what could man do to redeem himself and reconcile a just and holy God? As far as man was concerned, the situation was utterly hopeless.

But God in His infinite love and mercy found and furnished a ransom: His only-begotten Son. Before the gates of the Garden of Eden had been closed, a ray of hope was shed into the gloomy hearts by God's promise of the Woman's Seed.

Through the mouth of prophecy the promises of a Helper, a Saviour, were multiplied. The entire worship of Israel was centred in a vicarious atonement, and with eager expectation God's children accepted the promise and looked forward to the time when the "*salvation of Israel would come out of Zion.*"⁴ To them the frowning countenance of an angry God was changed as often as they heard the often repeated benediction, ²⁵ *The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you.*

And now that Messiah has come, we of the New Testament can rejoice with the apostle, as written in Titus 2:11, *the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*

And then we read in Galatians 4:4-5, ⁴ *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,* ⁵ *to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

We read in *Luther's Small Catechism*, in the explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, *At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil - not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.*

This is summarised in 1 Timothy 1:15, ¹⁵ *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

Now we can bask in the sunshine of the grace of the reconciled God in the face of Christ Jesus. Yes, how wonderful the assurance is of Jehovah's blessing by the grace of the Son!

3. Jehovah's Peace By The Holy Spirit

The last of the threefold blessing of the Holy Trinity we find in our text in the words,²⁶ *The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.* This is Jehovah's blessing by the peace of the Holy Spirit.

Peace — what a wonderful word, what blessings are contained in the promise of peace, in the assurance that we are to be possessors of peace! It is that peace of which the angels sang when Christ, the Saviour, was born, that message of peace with which the risen Lord greeted His disciples.

This blessing of peace is the positive assurance that God is at peace with us. Not because there was a truce or treaty on the part of man, but because *“God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.”*⁵ This peace was peace established on the part of God.

But nevertheless the fact that God's love to sinners is universal and that the grace of salvation is here for all, there are so many people who on their part are never at peace with God.

God who has done so much for us must also do something within us if the peace of God is to fill our hearts. And just this, is the work of the Holy Spirit. Creating faith in our hearts through Holy Baptism and through the Gospel and thus enlightening our hearts that we see Jesus as our Saviour, the Holy Spirit gives this wonderful peace and enters into the heart of every believer.

Many people in Israel obstinately resisted the Holy Spirit, and for the same reason many people in our day never come to the realisation of the blessings of peace with God.

To His children God gives the blessed assurance in Romans 5:1 that, *“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Yes, ¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* ¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*⁶

We read in *Luther’s Small Catechism*, in the explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, *I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the true faith.*

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church day after day He fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day He will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

So there is really nothing to fear; our sins are forgiven, and God is our Friend. Fearlessly we face the future. Even death can only bring us everlasting peace. God’s countenance is lifted upon us. Another glorious victory, another sinner won for the kingdom of heaven.

Friends, as you have heard the words of the Aaronic blessing in the past, so you will hear them again and again in the future. Take into your homes, into your hearts, into your lives, the threefold blessing of the Holy Trinity! Preservation, grace, and peace. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

¹ 1 Chronicles 16:36

² Genesis 2:2, Exodus 31:17

³ Exodus 15:23

⁴ Psalm 14:7

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:19

⁶ Romans 8:16-17