Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Nicodemus Series: The Devil Made Me Do It!
August 1, 2021
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PRELUDE

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on the Heidelberg Catechism1, Q & A #1, Paragraph 1)
Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
All people: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

ACT OF CONFESSION
Pastor: Yes! Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is indeed faithful, full of grace and truth, and it is to Him that we belong. Yet, in choosing to sin and do evil, we reject Christ and turn away. Let us confess our unfaithfulness and the limits of our trust.2
All people: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.3

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on the Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A #1, Paragraphs 2 & 3)
Pastor: Beloved of God, what then is your only comfort in life and in death?
That Christ has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen!

1 First published in 1563, the Heidelberg Catechism summarizes the major teachings of Holy Scripture in one hundred and twenty-nine memorable questions and answers. It originated in one of the few pockets of Calvinistic faith in the Lutheran and Catholic territories of Germany. It was originally conceived as a teaching tool for young people and as a form of confessional unity for Protestants. The Synod of Dort approved the Heidelberg Catechism in 1619, and it soon became the most ecumenical of all the Reformed catechisms and confessions.


HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
   Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing,
   For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great;
   And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
   Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choosing.
   Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He, Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
   We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
   The Prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for Him; His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;
   Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever. Amen.
OLD TESTAMENT READING  
Job 1:6-12

EPHSTLE READING  
Hebrews 2:11-18

GOSPEL READING  
Luke 11:1-4

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER  
The Devil Made Me Do It 
Rev. Laura C. Bair

OFFERING INVITATION
Liturgist: Let us now offer with a prayer of Dedication, these works of our life and labor together, along with our tithes and financial offerings. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF DEDICATION & THE LORD’S PRAYER
All people: Bless these tithes and offering, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them to bring the healing word and touch of Jesus to this place and throughout the world. We pray in the name of Jesus who also taught to pray, saying: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN  
Onward, Christian Soldiers  
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BENEDICTION 4
Pastor: Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of God’s glory with exceeding joy,
To the only wise God, our Savior,
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
Both now and forever.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Onward, Christian Soldiers

In march rhythm

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before; Christ the royal Master leads against the foe; Forward into battle,

2. Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God; Brothers, we are all one body we, One in hope and doctrine,

3. Crowns and thrones may perish, King-doms rise and wane, But the Church of 'Gainst that Church prevail; We have Christ's own promise,

4. Onward, then, ye people, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your unto Christ the King; This through countless ages

Refrain

See, His banners go. Onward, Christian soldiers,

One in charity.

And that cannot fail.

Men and angels sing.

Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. A-MEN.