

Sermon  
Rev. Lang Yang

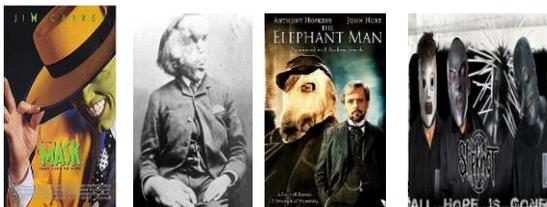
**“The Son Sets You Free”**

Reformation Sunday  
St. Paul Lutheran Church – Caro, MI  
10-25-15

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**John 8:36** *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* This is the Word of the Lord. (Cross reference – John 8:32, Romans 8:2, 1 Corinthians 7:22, Galatians 5:1)

Illustration “Mask” (Show picture of The Mask, Elephant Man, Halloween Mask)



In the movie “The Mask”, Jim Carey play a banker by day and by night time he’s a total new person. - The Mask pretend to be someone else then he really was. The Movie The Elephant Man, starting Anthony Hopkins – the elephant man face was

disfigure and was embarrassed to let others see him. In a few day it will be Halloween (Halloween always celebrated on October 31). Many children will be wearing a mask and go trick or treat asking for candy from door to door. The truth is that people doesn’t really understand to why you have to cover your face with a mask? Halloween is a festival from the pagan cult that believing the dead or evil just to purposely celebrate against “All Saints Day.” We will not be talking about the difference between Halloween and All Saint’s Day today but we will talk about sins. (Show Mask)



Did you know that people wear mask everyday in their lives? The mask that people wear is call sin. How are we supposed to not wearing any mask of sin in our lives?

I. Today is Reformation Sunday. In 1517, Dr. Martin Luther nail his 95 Theses to the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. (Show Dr. Martin Luther)



Luther penned the Theses debating against the Catholic Church’s corrupt practice of selling “indulgence” to absolve sin. His “95 Theses,” which propounded two central beliefs—that the Bible is the central religious authority and that humans may reach salvation only by their faith and not by their deeds—was to spark the Protestant Reformation.

Luther and others reformer simply want the Christian faith to get back to the basic that “salvation is through Grace alone.” (Show LCMS Seal)



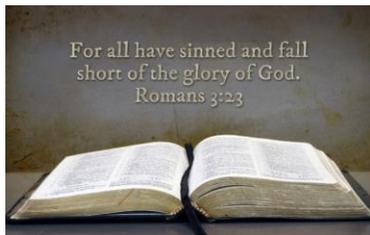
From the Reformation, Lutheranism begin to search for the truth in Jesus Christ as the only way to salvation by believing and trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The official seal of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is a unique blend of symbols and words. In the center is:

- a blue shield, representing the Christian's faith;
- a prominent gold cross proclaiming that we preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead;
- Latin words under the cross reading "Jesus Christus Dominus Est" (Jesus Christ is Lord);
- three equilateral gold crosses symbolizing the Holy Trinity;
- three gold stars on the shield standing for the three Christian creeds: the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
- Beneath the shield is Luther's seal.
- Three gold stars on each side of the shield stand for the six Lutheran Confessions that were published in one book, titled "Concordia," in 1580.
- Grape vines fill the bottom white spaces, symbolizing Christ's words in John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
- Around the inner circle are the words on which Lutheranism is founded: Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide (by Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone).
- The exterior circle contains the proper name of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the year it was founded, 1847.

This is one of the reason why the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod “Walk Together” by saying “This is what we ‘Believe, Teach, and Confess.’” We walk together in “by Scripture alone, by grace alone, by faith alone.”

- II. In the Old Testament, the Jewish love their law. If they do good then it mean that they are righteous in God’s eye. Today people still think that they have to do good work to be righteous in God’s eye. (Show Romans 3:23)



But what people trying to do is to show good from the outside but on the inside is full of lie, greed, lust, envy and continue to hide the sin that people committed everyday. All of these are a mask that we wear to cover the darkness within ourselves. Because we live with a sinful nature that we cannot hide it from God. This is what the Apostle Paul

mean in our Epistle Lesson as he writes to the Romans. God’s Word said, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23) (Show Adam and Eve)



Did any of you remember what is **original sin**? Our Ancestor Adam and Eve commit the first sin and that lead all human to inherit this original sin. They were once sinless and perfect. Because of their sin by eating the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden, God sent an angel to remove them from the Garden of Eden. (Show sin)



Now that was the original sin. What about the actual sin? The actual sin is the sin that we commit. When you steal, cheat, lie, hate, and not willing to forgive others are some of the actual sin that you committed each day. This is why the law is still bound you to the sin.

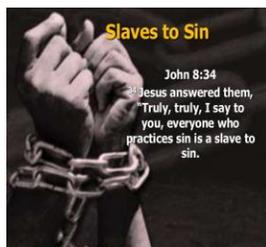
How are we going to be free from this sin? The Apostle Paul write, *“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* (Romans 1:17) We cannot keep the law because we continue to commit sin each day of our lives. In order to be free from the law is to trust the Gospel. The Gospel is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. (Show picture John 8:31-32)

III. Today our Gospel Lesson said,



*“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . . . So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*” (John 8:31-32, 36) Many people today do not know the truth. God’s Word say, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples?”* Are you holding to His teaching?

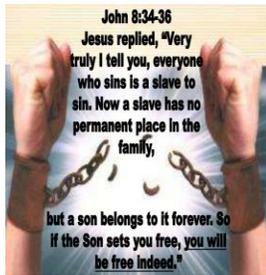
Many people think and said, “If I’m a good father, a good son, a good daughter, or a good person. I have not cheat, lie, and steal then I’m righteous in God’s eye.” You may be a good person, but what did God’s Word said? Paul write, *“There is no one righteous, not even one;”* (Romans 3:10) (Show slave to sin)



Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, everyone who sin is slave to sin”* (John 8:34) If no one is righteous and everyone who sin is slave to sin then where can we get this righteous and free from slave to sin? Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, to be righteous is to believe and trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior. When you believe and trust in Jesus, He already save you from slave to sin.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is righteous and holy with no sin. He came to take away the sin of the world. He is the way to heaven. This is why he said, “I am the way the truth and the life, I am the bread of life, I am the living water, I

am the light of the world, I am the beginning and the end, and I am the Alpha and Omega. (Show free)



God sent His only Son to set you free so that you can be righteous in God’s eye. As we remember the Reformation on how Luther encourages us to remember that through “Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone” and the Holy Spirit called us to faith so that we may have eternal life in heaven. As we observed the 498 anniversary of the Reformation, may we continue to preach, teach and confess that Salvation is through Christ alone. Before the

reformation, many Christian thought that only the priest can read the Bible and forgive sin. People didn’t know that they can be free from sin by confessing and repenting them directly to God. This is why Jesus said, “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” (John 8:36) Christ came and die on the cross as the Lamb that has taken away the sin of the world. You are truly free from sin, death and the devil because of your faith in Jesus Christ. Brothers and sister in Christ Jesus, you no longer have to wear a mask to cover your sin, because “*the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” Go now and learn, live, and share Christ so that others may be save through his name. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.