

October 27, 2024

1 Peter 1:13-21

Short-cuts - we love our short-cuts, don't we? Who here doesn't take or use short-cuts? We love our short-cuts on our phones. We love our short-cuts in the kitchen. We love our short-cuts getting from here to there. We love our short-cuts. They make life easier, and we like that.

Just over 500 years ago, Johann Tetzel sold a short-cut - a short-cut to make life easier, a short-cut promising to make getting into heaven quicker and easier. All people had to do was pay a coin, an indulgence, and they could get someone forgiven and into heaven. All they had to do was pay a coin and they could get all their sins forgiven; for a coin they could get themselves right with God. It doesn't work that way. With his short-cut, Tetzel wasn't just cutting time, Tetzel was cutting out Jesus. A priest named Martin Luther saw the danger - Tetzel's lie in place of God's Truth, an indulgence coin in place of Jesus' forgiving blood, a life of false short-cuts instead of a life of true repentance. Luther saw the danger in that - instead of Tetzel freeing people from the fires of purgatory and hell, Tetzel would be helping people into the fires of hell.

As a priest who loved his people, as a child of God learning God's grace, Luther couldn't keep quiet. On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Here's the first: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ``Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Luther was right - when Jesus said, "Repent," there are no short-cuts around that. Luther was right - "the entire life of believers [is] to be one of repentance." No short-cuts.

*When you hear the word "repentance," what comes to mind?*

That doesn't mean that we have to go around our entire life sad and sorry, "I'm sorry, sorry, sorry." No, "repent" doesn't mean fixate or focus on sin and guilt, sad and sorry. And "repent" doesn't mean "make up for what you have done." Instead, "repent" means "change your mind." Instead of thinking "sin is good; skimping on God is good; taking a short cut on what god

says is good” - change your mind to “sin is wrong.” Instead of blaming and excusing, change your mind from blaming and excusing to confessing: “I did wrong; by my self, I am wrong.” Instead of approving and even cheering sin, change your mind to hating and rejecting sin. Instead of “I can fix this; I can make myself right with God,” change your mind to “God, have mercy on me a sinner.”

But that’s not all. As I said, we don’t have to stay stuck on sad and sorry. We get to live fixed and focused on Jesus, what Jesus has done for us, what Jesus has coming for us! We are - you are - redeemed and delivered from your sin. We are - you are - redeemed and forgiven from those short-cuts we took, the times we skimmed on good and right, the times we expected God to be satisfied with less than holy.

*Now when you hear the word “repentance,” what new comes to mind?*

How are we delivered and forgiven? God didn’t skimp; God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. And Jesus didn’t skimp or take short-cuts. Jesus didn’t try to work around God’s commands; he didn’t try to find some way out, some excuse to get out of what God expects of us. Instead, Jesus lived the life God had for him - no skimping, no short-cuts. To cover for us, he lived the life God has for us - no skimping, no short-cuts. And then he offered himself on the cross - no skimping, no short-cuts - as the Lamb of God to pay for the sins of the world. On the cross, he paid for all the ways that we have skimmed on giving God our best; on the cross he paid for all our short-cuts in doing what God has for us to do. Jesus didn’t skimp; he didn’t short-cut; he didn’t lower the standard on what God expects. Jesus lived holy as God is holy - all the way to the cross. And so God didn’t skimp on him, on Jesus. Instead, God raised Jesus back to life and gave him all the glory of heaven - glory that Jesus has promised to give you - no skimping, no short-cuts.

*Where do you think it might have been most tempting for Jesus to skimp and take short-cuts?*

*What does it mean for you that Jesus didn’t skimp or take short-cuts?*

When we set our hearts and minds on what Jesus has done for us - no skimping, no short-cuts; when we set our hearts and minds on what Jesus has coming for us - no skimping, no short-cuts; then living a life of repentance, no skimping, no short-cuts - it only seems right, doesn't it?

*When you think of God giving you life in heaven - no skimping, no short-cuts, what comes to mind?*

That's what Peter is thinking when he writes our lesson. Peter doesn't use the word "repent," but Peter does use "mind and thinking" words that mean much the same thing. Peter says: **"Prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."** Peter sees his people distracted by the world, tempted by the world, in danger of leaving the way, the truth, and the life to chase whatever comfort or high the world has to offer. Instead of telling them: "repent," he says: "Get your thinking together." Not just "Get your thinking together for thinking," but "get your thinking together for action." Then "be self-controlled." Not muscle-controlled, but thought-controlled. Here is where Peter is headed: **"Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."** Instead of living distracted by the world, instead of setting your heart on what the world has to offer, set your hope on what Jesus has for you - he has all the grace and glory of heaven for you.

*What distractions in the world require more "sober-minded self-control" from you?*

Sometimes when people hear the promise of grace from God, they think they can skimp and take short-cuts on living for God - “I’m forgiven; it doesn’t matter if I skimp a bit; it won’t matter if I take a few short-cuts - I’m forgiven.” Sometimes, when people hear God promise them heaven, they think it doesn’t matter what they do here, that they can skimp and take short-cuts in their life with God; they’re going to heaven anyways. Peter doesn’t say: “No skimping” and “no short-cuts,” but he says much the same thing. **“Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”** No skimming, no skimping, no short-cuts, no detours - “Be holy.” Be holy like God is holy.

*Where are you tempted to skimp or take short-cuts on your life with and for God?*

Be holy. In my worship life here, my devotion life at home, my living and giving for God everywhere all the time - I don’t get to pick and choose where to be holy and where to skimp or take short-cuts. Be holy in all you do.

That sounds impossible, overwhelming. On the one hand, it can sound so impossible that instead of living holy, we make excuses for ourselves and think it ok to skimp and take short cuts. On the other hand, it can sound so overwhelming that instead of living holy, we just give it all up in despair.

*Which “hand” is more tempting for you?*

To keep us from going this way or that, Peter points us to our Father - **“Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”** How can I skimp on the Father I pray to? How dare I skimp on the Father who judges? And then Peter takes me back to Jesus and the cross: “You don’t have to live the empty life of the world. You don’t have to live a life of guilt and fear. You don’t have to live a life of hoping that God will be ok with your skimping and short cuts. You don’t have to live that life; you are redeemed, delivered, forgiven in the blood of Jesus - forgiven for life full and right, holy with God.

*How do you set your thinking on the truth that you are forgiven?*

*How do you set your hope on the grace God has for you in heaven?*

I think it can sometimes be easy for us as Lutherans to beat up on those who think they can take short-cuts in getting right with God, and then we ourselves fall into the different trap of skimping and taking short-cuts in living the life God calls us to live. When we set our minds on what Jesus has done for us - no skimping, no short-cuts; when we set our hopes on what Jesus has coming for us - no skimping; no short-cuts; then what? Instead of looking to skimp and take short-cuts, we’ll set ourselves on this - “Be holy, because your God is holy” - in Jesus. Amen.

*How will you live more and more holy with Jesus this week?      Join us in our New Start homework!*

October 26 & 27, 2024

**NEW MORNING PRAISE**

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** manufacturing standards have slipped (Boeing and ???); customer service and social etiquette standards have slid; in so many ways it seems we live in a world content to just get by. Sadly, we can see the same thing in church.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** we see that God's standards have not slipped. He reminds us that grace and forgiveness do not mean that he has dropped his standards, or that he excuses slipping standards. Our Lord and Savior has called us to be like him - "Be holy, because I am holy." As obedient children of God who call on him as Father, what do we do with his standards?

**OPENING HYMN**

*"Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us"*

**Hymn 566**

Father, God of grace, you knew us, chose us, named us as your own,  
through eternal ages planning to redeem us in your Son.  
Praise the Father, God who loved us ere creation was begun!

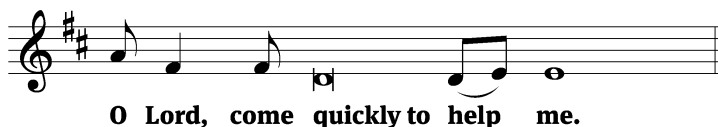
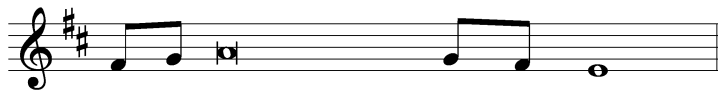
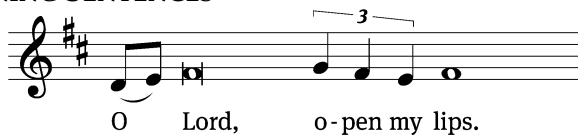
We, your creatures, sinned against you, and our guilt was crimson red.  
Son of God, you came incarnate, crushed the crafty serpent's head,  
died our death, now live triumphant: praise the firstborn from the dead!

Counselor, you bring as promised from the Father and the Son  
righteousness fulfilled, accomplished, free forgiveness, heaven won.  
Praise the Spirit! He assures us our salvation's work is done!

Lord, your changeless Word has fed us, spanning time, transcending space.  
Water, bread, and wine sustained us when the darkness hid your face.  
Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd, by your saving means of grace!

Forward lead us; Christ, we follow, drawn by Word and promise true:  
"To all nations preach the gospel; I am evermore with you."  
Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus, quickly come; make all things new!

## OPENING SENTENCES



## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**Come, O come, let us wor - ship.**

### COME, O COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,

*refrain*



you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty, eternal and righteous God, you revealed your divine Word to teach us what we should do and what we should avoid. Strengthen and lead us by your Holy Spirit that we serve you in new obedience here until we come to complete holiness before you in that life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*1 Peter 1:13–21*

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 51*

Cre - ate in me a  
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -  
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your  
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

SECOND READING

*Titus 3:4-8*

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

*Luke 12:42–48*

The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”*

**Hymn 704**

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
flee the world which would deceive us and to sin our souls allure.  
Ever in his footsteps treading, body here, yet soul above,  
full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, to his image e’er conform;  
heaven’s glory soon will please us, sunshine follow on the storm.  
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, we shall reap in heav’nly joy,  
and the fears that now annoy shall be laughter on the morrow.  
Christ, I suffer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus; his death from the second death,  
from our soul’s destruction, frees us, quickens us with life’s glad breath.  
Let us mortify, while living, flesh and blood and die to sin,  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here I die to thee, there to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; since he’s risen from the dead,  
death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.  
We are truly thine own members, where thou livest, there live we;  
take and own us constantly, faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.  
Jesus, here I live to thee, also there eternally.

**SERMON**

***1 Peter 1:13-21***

## HYMN

## *“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*

Hymn 689

Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and soul be bright,  
illuminated with the light of grace that issues from your holy face.

Destroy in me the lust of sin, from all impureness make me clean.  
O grant me pow’r and strength, my God,  
to strive against my flesh and blood.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey your Word.  
O let your will be my desire and with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love and seek those things which are above  
till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** May this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our works. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference to public worship and Bible study. Destroy the distrust that plagues us, and shatter every thought and word that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

**C:** **Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

**M:** Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

**C: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

**M:** Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and reconsecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

**C: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

### PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**M:** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

### BLESSING



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



## CLOSING HYMN

## *“Take My Life and Let It Be”*

### Hymn 695

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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