

2nd Sunday after Trinity for Posen: June 25, 2017
“Divine Wisdom”

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The words of Proverbs, written by King Solomon, is quite a jewel. It is not only a book containing practical wisdom for living out the moral Law of God summarized in the 10 Commandments; it is also a book that breathes Jesus into our daily vocations. At its very core, it sets up two ways: the way of the wise and the way of the foolish. It is also important to know that Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs is Jesus. The Holy Spirit fleshes this out for us when He speaks of these themes again through St. Paul, ***“Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”***¹

With Christ as our true Wisdom, we consider our text. Solomon writes, ***“Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.”*** A typical house would have had 1-2 supporting pillars, Wisdom’s house here has 7. This would be a huge house; and in fact it is. This house of Christ is the world. The Lord sings in Psalm 104, ***“He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved,”***² and in Psalm 75, ***“When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars.”***³

This great earth was created and designed by Divine Wisdom Himself. While it may be a place of foolishness now, it was not designed to be that way. It was created good. God saw all that He had made and declared it very good. It was perfect. It was moral. It was innocent. There was peace and harmony. Man lived in

¹ 1 Corinthians 1:20–25

² Psalm 104:5

³ Psalm 75:3

faith towards God and in perfect love towards one another. Creation was tended to and cared for by God's gracious hand, and mankind served as God's loving and tender hands in the Garden.

But then man became a fool. In great foolishness, he sought to be like God. He was not content with God's Word, with God's direction, with God's providence and provision. In great folly, man set himself up against God. He wanted to rule, govern, and guide. He sought his own welfare over that of his neighbor. He feared his own perceived lack of understanding over the clarity of God's revealed Word. It was with that foolishness that all mankind, all creation itself, was thrust into foolery. Through sin, mankind was made ignorant of God's great love. Sin causes foolishness and trouble. Rather than living in peace through wisdom, we struggle in folly.

Divine Wisdom does not leave men in this poor, miserable state. God, through great Wisdom in a beautiful design, seeks to rescue fools from their sinfully foolish ways. In order to save fallen man from foolishness, Jesus took our nature upon Himself. ***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”***⁴

It is by this Jesus, by the proclamation of His Word, and why we gather together under His Word so that, ***“hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”***⁵ This is one of the beautiful things of God's Wisdom. He died for all those within these seven pillars. He died for all regardless of socio-economic status. Whether you are rich or poor, black or white, American, German, Canadian,

⁴ Colossians 1:15–20

⁵ Colossians 2:2–3

Russian, or even Norwegian, Christ died for you. Under this roof, we gather together and each week we are reminded of our equality in sin and divine forgiveness as we together to confess our sins and receive His forgiveness through the proclamation of His gifts. We may not speak the same language or have the same friends, but we are commonly united under the Gospel. By joining Christ's Church, we are bound to a common confession, under a common language, and Dilynn joins us today. As a fellow sister in Christ, we rejoice with her and her family and give thanks to Our Father, who art in heaven.

You see Christ, Wisdom, has been sacrificed and set the table. The banquet of divinely prepared nourishment is set. What is the banquet? Isaiah fills us in, "***On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'***"⁶

This banquet is free by the grace of God. We did not earn it. We do not deserve it. Wisdom does not charge an admission fee and diners are not given a bill at the end of the meal. Christ has paid the full redemption price.

The invitation especially goes out to those who are gullible and lacks sense; the fools, that is the fools according the world's standards. The fools, the gullible, are all mankind. It is me. It is you. It is us in sin. This is the walk of faith. In our natural state, we are not inclined to Wisdom. Apart from Christ, we are prone to follow our own ways. We are inclined to be just like Adam, and follow our own passions, our desires, our own sinful hearts. Experience testifies the truth of the confession, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him."

⁶ Isaiah 25:6-9

Thus the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Through His Wisdom, with His Holy Spirit, by His own Word, we lose our gullibility and obtain everlasting life. In this way we leave our simple ways and live; truly live and walk in the way of insight. Jesus says, ***“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”***⁷ Through His Word, by His grace, minds are opened to understand the Scriptures.⁸ The Holy Spirit effects new birth, and today we witness this new birth in Dilynn. It is a giving of a different heart, a different mind, a different disposition. Not as the world gives, but as Christ gives. As the Holy Spirit says, ***“It is God who works in you, both to will and to work.”***⁹

For this work to be accomplished on this earth, in His great wisdom, God not only gives the means, gives the church, but He also sends men to fill the office to preach, ***“repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations.”***¹⁰ As Zion and Nicolai, are preparing to walk together with a maiden of the Lord beginning today. The servants of God are fit for the office who walk as maidens, that is with purity, chastity, gentleness and humbleness to carry forth not their own message, but the message of the One who sent them.

It is also important, on that topic, to hear again verses 7-10, ***“Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”***¹¹

It is true that wisdom’s followers will be wise, but they are not perfect; no one on this side of heaven, apart from Jesus, will be. The sinful nature will continue to remain, and walking in faith will ever remain, until we pass from this life to the one to come. The daily reality of all Christians will be one of the, “Old Adam in us

⁷ John 15:16

⁸ Luke 24:45

⁹ Philippians 2:13

¹⁰ Luke 24:47

¹¹ Proverbs 9:7–10

should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

The wise, those who are in Christ, not only “***Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.***”¹² They are at the same time sinners and need constant correction. All Christians help in kindly and fraternal spirits to the betterment and advancement of all. It is the language of Christ, the wisdom of Christ that shines through in glorious light.

The Word of God, the wisdom of God, is beautiful in this way. Divine knowledge is given. It is a gift of God. We simply receive. Our cry is much like the Father of the Demon-possessed boy, “***Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.***”¹³ And He does! By His grace, “He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

“O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.”¹⁴ Amen.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

¹² Galatians 6:1–2

¹³ Mark 9:24

¹⁴ LSB 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word: stanza 3