

## "A Meditation on Psalm 32"

9 March Anno Domini 2005  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Emmett, Idaho  
Pastor Michael L. McCoy

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the Name of the LORD our God; that is, in the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Soul,

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,  
. . . you were created some time between then and now.

Unlike God you have had a beginning,  
. . . like God you will have no end.

You were created just in time for eternity,  
. . . and here you live and move and have your being,  
. . . here you is between now and then.

You are a Christian, a present-tense child of God the Father,  
. . . one re-created after being first created,  
. . . one re-generated after your first genesis,  
. . . one here below who was born again from above,  
. . . this being so according to the Son,  
. . . when the Spirit hovered over the water,  
. . . and the Word said, "Let there be . . .  
. . . and you became a living soul,  
. . . and behold it is very good,  
. . . for you share the Resurrection Life of Christ,  
. . . and now you live in the Present according to the Word  
. . . and have since that Day of the Presence of the LORD.

So, how long are you, oh soul? . . . that is you, oh bi-polar one?  
. . . how long have you lived here, dear Christian?  
. . . Long enough to know the burden and the pardon?  
. . . Long enough to feel the accusation and the acquittal?  
. . . Long enough to long for the Word of Good News,  
. . . and thirst for righteousness,  
. . . and hunger for the Word of peace?

. . . Long enough to know the killing that precedes Life,  
. . . as the Law precedes the Gospel,  
. . . as the drowning of the old Adam must  
. . . daily be before the new soul comes forth?

Dear soul,  
... Have you learned the following  
... by catechesis in the Word,  
... and by experience by being in a world of hurt?  
... Have you memorized the following  
... by meditation in the Word,  
... and by faithful moaning in a time of pain?

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
... whose sin is covered.

The LORD Almighty has given His Holy Word of Law,  
... on stone tablets etched by the very finger of God,  
... His "Thou shalt"s and "Thou shalt not"s - His Word  
... declaring that Its transgressors are dead men walking,  
... for the soul that sins shall surely die. 'Tis His Word.

Then truly blessed would be that soul  
... whose transgression is forgiven,  
... for without such forgiveness the soul is cursed.  
Then truly blessed would be that soul  
... whose sin is covered,  
... for without such a covering the soul is cursed.

Oh to have such forgiveness and covering!  
... But who may have it,  
... and where might it be found,  
... and when might it ever be for,  
... and what must be done for it to be,  
... and how might this pardon be,  
... and why would such ever be yours, oh soul?

Who would not agree with the psalmist's verse?

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity  
... and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Oh, a soul would be blessed  
... if the LORD did not mark up a soul's transgressions  
... on the Divine chalkboard to tally the whacks  
... that will be yours at the end of the Day,  
... if God did not credit a soul's account with its debits,  
... if the Almighty did not count a soul's sins in a ledger,  
... if the spirit of a soul had neither deceit nor duplicity.

Surely such a soul would be blessed,  
... but it is most certainly true that such a soul does not exist

. . . among those born by what man conceives here,  
. . . among those descendants of those born from below.  
. . . for out of the heart process all manner of evil intentions,  
. . . for out of the mouth spit forth utterances of wickedness,  
. . . for out of the body are done the deeds of death.  
. . . for the soul sins by commission and omission, and  
. . . this is most certainly true.

And if a soul denies this truth and will not admit this reality,  
. . . a pallid pall of lead weighs heavily,  
. . . and the soul shrivels into calloused jerky.  
. . . Or, as the repentant psalmist recalled . . .  
. . . and as we hear this soul speak . . .

When I kept silence,  
. . . my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.  
For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me:  
. . . my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

What's a soul to do? Selah.  
. . . Consider an interlude for thought,  
. . . a time to ponder all these things.

Then follow the example a longtime impenitent soul  
. . . and of humbled, worn-down contrite soul,  
. . . that is, follow the repentant example  
. . . of Ruth's great-grandson and Jesse's son  
. . . of Saul's musician and Israel's king  
. . . of David the Psalmist who confessed . . .

I acknowledged my sin unto Thee,  
. . . and mine iniquity have I not hid.  
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD;

I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto Thee  
. . . all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee  
. . . and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment.  
But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them,  
. . . and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy  
. . . and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death  
. . . of Thy Beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
. . . to be gracious and merciful to me,  
. . . a poor, sinful being.

Selah - a moment of silence between the confession of sin  
. . . and the Word of forgiveness.  
Selah - an interlude of anticipation after the confession of sin  
. . . and before the Absolution of the LORD.

and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office,  
... as a called and ordained servant of the Word,  
... announce the grace of God unto all of you,  
... and in the stead and by the command  
... of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you are your sins  
... in the Name of the Father  
... and of the † Son  
... and of the Holy Ghost.

This is the Word of God . . .  
... that causes bones waxed old to live again  
... that silences the roaring during all the day long  
... that removes the heavy-Hand of God from upon you  
... that replaces the soul's summer drought with the Water of Life.  
Selah.

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto Thee  
... in a time when Thou mayest be found:  
... The confession of sin is prayed to God  
... in a time when Jesus' forgiveness is declared.

For the faithful soul who petitions thusly, and trusts confidently,  
... and hears the cleansing Word often  
... surely in the floods of great waters  
... they shall not come nigh unto him.  
For the trusting soul who petitions thusly, and believes confidently,  
... will utter the truthful Word often to the LORD . . .  
Thou art my hiding place;  
... Thou shalt preserve me from trouble;  
... Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

... with the ringing cry of the Christmas angels singing  
... the Gloria in excelsis  
... singing the Church's song according to the prophet's urging  
... Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel;  
... be glad and rejoice with all the heart,  
... O daughter of Jerusalem.  
... with the Good Friday hymning of the superscription being,  
... Jesus, crucified for me,  
... Is my Life, my hope's Foundation,  
... And my Glory and Salvation.  
... with the joyous hymn that I know that my Redeemer lives  
... with song of Simeon,  
... Lord now let Thy servant depart in peace  
... according to Thy Word

. . . Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah

Hear now, dear soul, for the Holy Spirit is speaking . . .  
. . . that is, listen to the Word of the LORD . . .

I will instruct thee and teach thee  
. . . in the way which thou shalt go:  
. . . I will guide thee with mine eye.

I will lead you to the cross . . .  
. . . for in that darkness Jesus wrought your salvation  
. . . for in that atonement Christ earned your forgiveness  
. . . for in that death the LORD provided for your life

I will be your guide through the valley of the shadow of death,  
. . . cast all your fears on Me for I care about you, for in  
. . . Holy Baptism I have put My Name on you and called you Mine.  
I will be your Shepherd Who keeps you in My nail-pierced hands,  
. . . hear My Word that continuously cleansing you, for in  
. . . Holy Absolution I forgive you all your sins  
I will be your Master Who will lead you home,  
. . . eat the bread of My Body and drink the wine of My Blood, for in  
. . . Holy Communion My Presence abides with you at My Table.

Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule,  
. . . which have no understanding:  
. . . whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle,  
. . . lest they come near unto thee.  
For you are ushered into My Presence by My Grace,  
. . . not by the jerking force of My Law.

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked:  
. . . but he that trusteth in the LORD,  
. . . mercy shall compass him about.

Therefore, dear soul,  
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous:  
. . . and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Amen. Amen.  
. . . That is, yea, yea, it shall be so,  
. . . this is most certainly true!