



# ST. MARK

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Daily Devotional

Monday, April 4, 2022

Pastor Eric Jay

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, it's too often that we forget just how blessed we are that we can take this moment right now and pray to You, the Eternal God, and call You our Father. Your love for us knows no measure as You gave up everything, dying on the cross for all the sins of humanity, so that You could make us Your children and give us an eternal home and family of faith in Your presence forever. Help us in Your mercy to live each day in thankfulness and worship toward You for this precious inheritance we have in Your Son Jesus. Amen.

### **Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7**

*When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

### **Devotion – "No Option but Adoption"**

All children of God are adopted children. Only Christ Jesus is the True Son and heir. Our text in Galatians says that *"you are no longer a slave, but God's child."* The truth is that everyone enters this life enslaved to sin and separated from God because of sin. On our own, we would have known nothing else but sin and all of its evils. We would have remained captives and condemned under the Law of God. But in His amazing grace and love, God not only fulfilled the Law in His Son Jesus, but also laid on Him the consequences we have earned by breaking His Law. Now by faith in Christ, we have been set free and God has put the Spirit of His only Son Jesus in our hearts through faith in Him, making us not only redeemed children of God, but heirs with Christ. As Galatians 4 says we are adopted in Christ.

All of us enter heaven as adopted children, who have an eternal Father and family in God only because God in His mercy made us His own, certifying it in the blood of His own Son. God didn't wait for us to be able to understand how sinful or wrong or lost we were before dying for us and adopting us as His children. No, Scripture says that while we were still sinners - even enemies of God – while we were enslaved to sin and knew of nothing else but sin, Christ died for the sins of the whole world...for all people.

This earthly place is no longer our home. God has made us part of His eternal heavenly family, and as Christ promised in the Gospel of John, "You are not of this world any longer. I have set

you free and made you My own. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you and take you to the heavenly home to which you belong and which I have prepared for you". (My paraphrase of John 14)

Yet, because we still have this sinful nature until that day when Christ returns, we often lose sight of our eternal home and instead retreat to the sins and sinful world we know all too well. But God's mercies are new every morning. These are the sins He laid on His son in our place.

By grace through faith in Christ, we are the children of God. As our text for Galatians says, "*God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*"<sup>7</sup> *So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*"

So, my brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray you find complete joy and fulfillment in knowing Christ our Lord, and in the peace and assurance that in Him we are truly children of the Most High God who has forgiven yesterday, is with us today and has already taken care of tomorrow. Amen.