



# Sermon Study Guide for October 31, 2021

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** The Reformation brought the church back to the center of the Christian faith and what Jesus was all about. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone, revealed in Scripture alone! As heirs of the Reformation, Lutheran Christians continue to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and Biblical Christian faith to the next generation and all nations.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What are some things that you or your group know about the life and work of Martin Luther? See what you can collectively come up with and share.
2. What are some of the questions you have about what the Lutheran Church believes and does? This could be framed as a “I wonder why Lutherans ... ?”

## **In the Word: Read Romans 3:19-28**

3. The law cannot save us. What is the purpose of the law in verse 20, and how does that happen in our lives as Christians?
4. Martin Luther zeroed in on the words “righteousness of God” in verses 21-22. This righteousness doesn’t appear to be something we accomplish of ourselves. What was the startling realization about the “righteousness of God” that these verses make clear?
5. How many times does Paul use the word “faith” in these verses?
6. Compare this reading with **Mark 8:1-10**. What are the similarities, and what are the differences? Note that Mark 6 (5,000) was in Galilee, mostly Jewish. Mark 8 (4,000) was in the Decapolis, mostly Gentile. Jesus is showing that the Kingdom of God has come to both Jews & Gentiles, with Jesus as their King.

### Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

7. Why do all people have a natural tendency to try and justify themselves? How do we try to do that?
  
8. The last sermon of the Spiritual Growth Campaign talked about our church membership as a gift. In verse 22, Paul says that the “righteousness of God” is given (gift!) through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Why is it so important to remember that this righteousness is given to us as a gift?
  
9. There are two kinds of righteousness. The righteousness that avails before God is the “righteousness of God” that is given to us through faith. This is the righteousness that gets us into heaven. However, there is still a righteousness that is lived out in our daily lives as we relate to others. This is the righteousness of the Ten Commandments and Jesus’ command to love one another. Both kinds of righteousness are different, but both are important – they just do different things. Take some time to discuss the difference between the righteousness we are given (before God) and the righteousness we do (with others) as it relates to these verses from Romans.

The Righteousness given by God

The Righteousness we live out daily

10. Everyone struggles with guilt, shame, regret, and the incessant need to justify ourselves. We may attempt the same things that Martin Luther did, but we try to deal with this all in our own way. How does the Gospel – God’s unconditional love and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ – help us deal with it all and find peace?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the gift of the Gospel, the good news that Jesus accomplished everything for our salvation, and that we have this as a free gift of God by His grace. Ask God to strengthen our faith, and help all Christians stay centered on the Gospel and solid in the Scriptures. Pray for our church as we learn, live, and share Christ with our community and beyond, that we might lift high the name of Jesus!

**Next Week:** All Saints Sunday is when we have the annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, remembering those members of our church family who have gone to the church triumphant this past year. We will be spending three weeks looking at the phrase “grace abounds” and talk about how God’s grace abounds in the lives of the saints and in the comfort we have in Christ’s resurrection and promise.

**Note:** Check out the Our Savior Blog for a summary description of the Lutheran Reformation, and links to learn more. Also check out [www.lutheranreformation.org](http://www.lutheranreformation.org).