



Daily Devotion



“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Paging through a magazine, my wife saw this quote by a landscape designer: “I love putting sofas outside. Lounging on a sofa with the newspaper on a Sunday morning is my idea of heaven.” How sad. For those not raised within the church, heaven has nothing to do with Jesus. In fact, contemplating sitting on a hard pew in a church on Sunday morning hearing the words of Christ, might actually be that designer’s idea of hell.

Contrast this with the story told centuries ago. A visitor, who had never been to a Christian service, went with a friend to worship in one of the large cathedrals in Europe. The massive pipe organ led the people in singing. The pastor preached and celebrated the Sacrament. It was a “full-blown” Divine Service. On their way out, the friend asked the visitor what he thought. The man responded: “I thought I was in heaven.”

That man was right. Heaven and earth meet in the Divine Service. This is where Jesus comes to dispense His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. This is where the angels and all the saints in heaven are gathered around Christ. No sofa, no matter how comfy it is, can touch that. When we, the saints on earth, gather with the saints who are with Jesus, this is a foretaste of what is to come. It is God’s idea of heaven for us now until He brings us safely there.

*The cherubim, their faces veiled from light, while saints in wonder kneel,
sing praise to Him whose face with glory bright no earthly masks conceal.
This Sacrament God gives us binds us in unity, joins earth with heaven
beyond us, time with eternity! Amen. (LSB 639 vs.3)*