



Midweek Meditation



"And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering." Genesis 4:4

God had regard for Abel, but not for Cain. It's not that Abel brought a better offering than his brother; it's that Abel believed in the promise of the coming Savior and Cain did not. The way God looked upon Abel is the way He looks upon you. "The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace" are the last words you, with the congregation, hear from the pastor in the Divine Service. To these words you give the cry of faith: Amen! ("Yes, Yes, let it be so!") Through your baptism into Christ you are God's dear child. His face is turned toward you sweetly in love not because you worship so well and give such a good offering to Him, but because you, like Abel, believe in the one who is your Savior, Jesus Christ. Abel was not a perfect son. Yet God looked upon him with regard and loved him. We should not think that God frowns upon us on account of our sinfulness. We bring our sins to the cross and lay them there with Christ. God forgives you. He smiles upon you, not because of you, but because He looks at you through Jesus.

Look not upon my sins, O God, but with mercy for the sake of Jesus in whom I trust. Amen.