

Isaiah 44:1-8

First RPC Durham

I. The Lord's Comfort to His People (vv 1-2)**A.** We are to hear the Lord's Word — *Yet hear now*

- 1) For the authority of God's Word (Mt 17:5).
- 2) For the blessing from God's Word

B. The Identity of the Church

- 1) *O Jacob . . . Israel whom I have chosen* (1 Pt 2:9-10)
- 2) *My servant* (Gal 6:14)

C. The Sovereignty of God and His Common Grace

- 1) *Thus says the Lord who made you* (Psa 100:3a)
- 2) *And formed you from the womb* (Psa 139:13-16)

D. The Particular Care, and Special Grace, of God for His Church

- 1) The Lord's help toward His Church
- 2) The Lord's comfort to His Church (Dan 10:5-6, 8, 18; Ex 14:13-14; Phil 4:6-7)
- 3) The great blessing of union with Christ (Isa 42:1a, 43:25)

E. Uses from the Text

- 1) Let us respond to the Word of God with faith and thanksgiving.
- 2) The Lord has given His Word and Sacraments for our comfort. (Jn 19:34).

II. The Lord's Grace Signified in Baptism (vv 3-5)**A.** *Larger Catechism 162, What is a Sacrament?***B.** *Larger Catechism 163, What are the parts of a Sacrament?***C.** *Larger Catechism 165, What is Baptism?* Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by His Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible Church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord's.**D.** What is the relationship between the sign of Baptism and receiving the thing signified? (Gen 17:23; Acts 8:13, 22-24)**E.** The pouring out of God's Holy Spirit:

- 1) In regeneration (Titus 3:4-6; Gen 1:2)
- 2) In renewal/sanctification (Psa 1:3, 23:2b)

F. The recipients of this covenant sign**G.** Union with Christ (Rom 6:3-4)**H.** Membership in God's covenant of grace (Psa 87:5-7)**I.** Uses from the Text

- 1) Let us delight in God, who gives good gifts to His children (Psa 111:2, 4)
- 2) Let us delight in blessed privilege of membership in Christ's Church. (Song of Songs 4:7)

III. Applying the Promises of God's Covenant (vv 6-8)**A.** Our assurance is grounded in the attributes and acts of God:

- 1) *The LORD, the King of Israel* (Deuteronomy 33:5)
- 2) *His Redeemer* (Acts 4:12)
- 3) *The LORD of hosts* (Heb 2:10, 14b-15).
- 4) *The First and . . . the Last* (Psa 90:2)
- 5) *Besides me there is no God* (Ex 20:3)
- 6) *And who can proclaim as I do*
- 7) *Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people*
- 8) *And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them* (Isa 9:6-7)

B. We are to respond with faith in the LORD our God:

- 1) *Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it?*
- 2) *You are my witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one* (Mt 28:19; Isa 52:13-15a)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Let us meditate often upon the Lord, His glory and grace.
- 2) We are called in the witnessing of another's baptism and in the remembrance of our own baptism to faith in Jesus Christ
- 3) We are warned against the great judgment from God in the misuse of the sacraments (1 Cor 10:1-2)
- 4) Let us look forward with anticipation to our heavenly inheritance.