

LWML Texas District

April 17, 2023

Meditation

Inspection

Imagine finding your dream home. The house has everything you have ever wanted. It is spacious, well kept, newly remodeled with finishes you like, and the walls are even the right color.

Then it happens, time for the inspection before you purchase. It is the worst-case scenario, there are termites destroying the home under all the beauty and seemingly perfect exterior, internal destruction. The wiring is old tube and knob, everything must be removed to repair it.

We are much the same way. We may look like we have it all together: our best face on, fancy clothing, appropriate jewelry, hair washed and styled, a joyful attitude, and many accolades commending our successes. But the worst lays unseen below the surface, our sin. Our sins which separate us from our neighbors, loved ones, and especially God.

God desires perfection from us, but we as much as we attempt to do what is right, we fail, and we fail often. There is an incredible moment in the Lutheran liturgy in the Divine service, where we take a moment in silence to reflect on our sin, to inspect our own shortcomings. Then the congregation together speaks a confession of our sinfulness.

When using the Divine Service III, the pastor will then share with us from God's own words of forgiveness. *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld"* (John 20:21–23). Or we hear these words, *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned"* (Mark 16:16), and *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12).

As a child I would often try to think of all the sins I committed during the past week in the brief moment of self-reflection, and would be disappointed by not being able to finish the "self-inspection" quickly enough. I encourage you to spend some time in self-reflection this week, focusing on how God has forgiven you time and time again, and what a blessing and relief it is that He loves with an everlasting love and forgives our sin and remembers it no more.

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