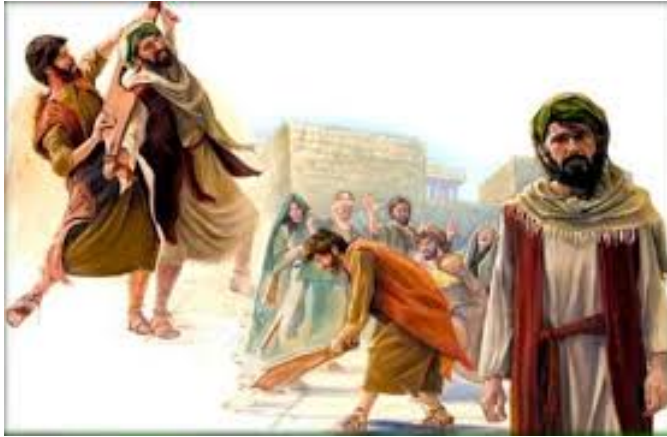


FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Lord Jesus Brings Division on Earth for the Sake of Peace with God in Heaven



Background: God's laws are like a mirror. With 100% accuracy it shows us how we have violated God's laws and deserve to be cast from His sight forever. Some ministers will say not all of God's laws apply. Jeremiah faced such prophets and was tormented by the establishment for telling the truth about God's laws, and the need for people to repent of those sins. In Baptism we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and recognize His call to repentance. We joyfully participate in Bible study and the sacraments, gaining

Jeremiah wearing the "yoke of Babylon" (Hananiah prophesied that God loved Israel and they did not have to change their evil ways, including Baal worship. This prophecy was proven false as Jeremiah predicted and warned Israel wearing the yoke). understanding and forgiveness, so we can live the sanctified life and be at "**Peace**" with God.

The Lessons: Jeremiah 28:5–9, Romans 7:1–13, and Matthew 10:34–42 False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken "*war, famine, and pestilence*" (Jer. 28:8). But if "*the LORD has truly sent the prophet,*" he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and "*the word of that prophet comes to pass*" (Jer. 28:9). The preaching of God's Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, "*sinful beyond measure,*" thereby "*producing death*" in the sinner (Rom. 7:13). But through our Baptism into Christ, "*we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive*" (Rom. 7:6). Now we belong "*to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God*" (Rom. 7:4). Belonging to Him puts us at odds with the world and divides us from all earthly ties, not only from our human family, but each person from his own life. For Christ does not come "*to bring peace, but a sword*" (Matt. 10:34). Yet, whoever takes up his cross to follow Christ, and "*loses his life*" for Christ's sake, finds new life in Him (Matt. 10:38–39).