**Genesis 11:1-9**

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. **2** And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. **3** And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. **4** Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” **5** And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. **6** And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. **7** Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” **8** So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. **9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

**“The Word Binds All To Jesus”**

**Intro:** Charlie Brown and his teacher, “Wah, Wah…” (Yes, mam…)

On Pentecost Sunday, let us consider in light of confirmation what the third article of the Apostle’s Creed has to say. LSB. 323.

Rather than Babel, God binds us together in Christ by His Word.

* We should note the word of concern over what humanity seeks to bind together.
* What was the conversation about 100 years after the flood?
* “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens…”
* The inner unity that Noah and His family had to God was lost!
* One language had one goal of a permanence misplaced, “…let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”
* How goes this conversation of man today?
* The Psalms tells the danger of human ingenuity bound to a sinful nature, “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” (2:2-3)
* Our government administration sent a letter to public schools last week on transgender students and bathrooms. “While the letter does not have the force of law, it does warn that schools that do not abide by the administration’s interpretation of civil rights law may face lawsuits or loss of federal aid.”[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Whose name has permanence in our life? (2nd Commandment) Is the Lord’s Name in my daily life? Do I keep my vows made in the Lord’s Name? Have I called upon His name in prayer? No.
* Yet, there is a better binding God brings with cause for all to celebrate.
* The outcome of one language had only one solution.
* “Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”
* Plenty of places become ghost towns, but God worked a miracle for just left.
* Early church Father Jerome states, “Indeed, when the tower was being built up against God, those who were building it were disbanded for their own welfare. The conspiracy was evil. The dispersion was of true benefit even to those who were dispersed.” (ACC)
* The one solution now for a scattered world is the one Savior.
* God has come down to us no longer to confuse! St. Paul says, “He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.” (Ephesians 4:10).
* Jesus is the Word made flesh who has worked a great miracle by His life, death, and resurrection.
* We can celebrate how God calls all to Christ, since He will not fail to forgive and help sinners. As Peter preached on Pentecost, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
* Bound to Christ means His Church has confidence to confess Him.
* The name that would mark all future attempts for man’s glory was to label that place, “Babel.”
* Babel meant, “Confusion” and that is all the world can unite under in the end.
* There is a Babylon in the Old Testament that takes Israel away into the exile.
* There is a Babylon in the New Testament that troubles the church for a time.
* The name that marks us is God’s glory to confess the place of baptism into Jesus.
* Confident that no other spirit, but the Holy Spirit unites the whole Church by the clarity of faith in Jesus.
* Confident that what marks the Church is the Holy Word and Sacraments that the Spirit uses to guard and keep us connected to Christ.
* Confident that even while towers of Babel continue to fail, the holy comfort is how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life who says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Today, Pentecost lets us know that there is no, “Wah…,Wah…” like with Charlie Brown’s teacher. There were many languages, but the Holy Spirit works to unite the brokenness that haunts humanity from the tower Babel. The church’s task is now to speak and hear this Gospel that gives us freedom, life, and hope in Jesus. As we learned in confirmation, it was during the fall of Rome by the Barbarians that the church more than survived, but thrived with life reaching out to the scattered, outsider, and isolated. This same Spirit is alive and well today never content with settling down. Rather than to Babel on and on and on, God binds us together in Christ and He does all by His Word. Amen. The peace of Christ, which passes all understanding…

1. http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/05/13/report-obama-administration-to-tell-public-schools-to-let-transgender-students-use-bathrooms-their-choice.html?intcmp=hpbt1 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)