

Sermon Notes

Dec. 15, 2024

Rev. 21

God With Us: The Church

Pastor Scott Suskovic

- I. What is the Church?
 - A. Lot's of possible answers
 - B. Lutheran Confession: *The Church exists where the Gospel is preached and the sacraments are rightly administered*
- II. Inner Circle: Obedience
 - A. Hearing the Word of God
 - B. Participating in the sacraments
- III. Second Circle: Living the Faith
 - A. Francis Collins: Braver Angels
 - B. The Ministry of Reconciliation starts with me
- IV. Third Circle: Accountability
 - A. Because we are fallen and flawed
 - B. Real meaning of "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
- V. Outer Circle: "Already and Not Yet"

I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this." (CS Lewis)