

# KING OF KINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Revelation 12:10-12

*The Accuser Is Defeated*

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Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:  
“Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Christ.  
For the accuser of our brothers,  
who accuses them before our God day and  
night,  
has been hurled down.  
They overcame him  
by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.  
Therefore rejoice, you heavens  
and you who dwell in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
because the devil has gone down to you!  
He is filled with fury,  
because he knows that his time is short.”

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You fill in the blanks for what God is telling you in this text. We have an enemy who **“accuses [us] before God day and night.”** But those accusations ring in your heart too. You do all you can to avoid speaking out loud what you know the accusations are. Maybe it is something you did just last night. But your shame isn’t just that you did it last night, but that you’ve repeated that action or said those words more times than you care to count. Maybe it is a habit — you gossip too much; you use your position or personality to keep people off balance so that they will behave the way you want. Maybe it is the way you speak to your spouse, parents, or children that is demeaning, disrespectful, or indifferent. Maybe you say what all Americans think they are supposed to say, “I’m so busy.” But you’re not. You just say that so you can avoid more work and indulge what you’d like to do. Maybe you dream of a different life because you don’t like the choices you’ve made or the direction in which God has guided you. Or maybe it is something you did years ago. You try to never think of it, but occasionally the right circumstances jog your memory and you feel a wave of guilt rush over you.

You fill in the sin that you don’t want to talk about or admit.

The devil knows about those sins too. He accuses you of this sin. In your heart, you hear him. *How could God love you? Look at what*

*you’ve done or keep on doing. You could not be forgiven. And the horrifying part — the reason you don’t want to talk or think about it — is that you know it isn’t a false accusation. You did it. You committed the sin.*

The truth makes the accusation sting.

In Revelation 12 symbolic pictures are used to talk about the work of Jesus. There is a dragon attacking a child. The child escapes to the throne of God and then the dragon attacks a woman. It is a picture of Jesus defeating Satan and then the devil attacking the Christian Church. While the attacks against Christians often come in the form of persecution, there are also personal attacks. A favorite attack of the devil is to play the role of accuser, pointing out the sins we’ve committed.

In the middle of this symbolic picture is our text. It is about the defeat of the devil. **“The blood of the Lamb”** is what allows us to overcome the devil. Good Friday silences the accusations of the devil. He **“has been hurled down.”** God no longer listens to his accusations because the sin is removed.

Like the lambs that were used as substitutes for the Old Testament believers, Jesus was the Lamb of God. He was the substitute. His blood has poured out on the cross as punishment for our sins. He was punished for every sin — the ones we admit and the ones we may not even realize we have committed. John, who wrote Revelation,

also wrote, **“The blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin”** (1 John 1:7).

The result of Jesus’ death is beautifully stated in our text. **“The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God”** have already come. It does not say they “will come,” but that already those gifts are ours. Jesus’ death completed the work of removing our sins.

Notice also that it says **“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.”** It does not say “He,” referring to Jesus, but “they,” referring to the believers. Through faith in Jesus you are so closely connected to him that what is his is yours. Because of Jesus, you have overcome the curse of your sins.

Notice also that it says that the devil **“has been hurled down.”** Already today, he is defeated. His nagging accusations that often ring in our ears and hearts are not valid! He is a liar, because Jesus has taken those sins away. Your guilt is gone.

The burden of guilt, be it past sins or present sins, can be suffocating. We try desperately to hide our failures from each other. We even want to avoid confessing some sins to God. *Who knows, he might get angry and not forgive me?* And so that burden lingers in our minds and cripples our thoughts and efforts to do God’s will.

Today we look to the cross and hear the words of the Scripture that tells us what the crucifixion means. It means the guilt is gone. The burden is removed. The believer is fully restored. Like the prodigal son, we are welcomed back to the Father’s family.

In good and proper humility, we confess our sins to God. Hiding them only brings more suffering. But as we take them to Jesus, we find that his blood has overcome all our wrongs.

As the final candle remains burning as you leave the church tonight, may it remind you of the light of Christ and the glory of the crucifixion. Be at peace, with God and with yourself, for Jesus Christ has saved you. Amen.

Good Friday Tenebrae  
April 3, 2015

