

## THE MESSENGER'S MESSAGE

Exodus 19:2-8 | Romans 5:6-11 | Matthew 9:35-10:8

Word in \_\_\_\_\_

Incarnation as the \_\_\_\_\_ act

The messenger becomes the \_\_\_\_\_

Receiving the incarnation of the \_\_\_\_\_

To accomplish His \_\_\_\_\_

You become His \_\_\_\_\_

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

One of the hangups of Lutheranism is the difficulty of talking about action (our action, at least). A lot of this is born of history: the divisions between us and the Roman Catholic Church had a large degree of division over action. The Catholic's thought that actions somehow were worthy of our merit before God, and the Lutherans held the line at we're all really, really terrible sinners. And so over the last 500 years or so, Lutherans had functionally though not officially, a sort of theological retreat from action because they were really, really concerned that people would think our actions would make us think we were doing something that merited God's grace, and we didn't want people to think that, because we believe that grace is a free gift and is freely received. I'm simplifying it all a bit, but the gist of this is that we are really good at say, reading Ephesians 2:8-9, but have become less great at hearing what Ephesians 2:10 says. Go ahead and read those verses.

Reflect:

The Word invites you to see that your source, your ground, is in Jesus. We have good examples of what not great things happen when this is lost. How can we be reminded of that in each day?

You are messengers of Christ in His healing. How do you bring about the work of healing to your world?

Respond:

I am created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

Remember: "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." Matthew 10:7-8