



March 17, 2017
The Apostles' Creed 2.2

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21

“He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.” (Luther’s meaning to the Apostles’ Creed, *Small Catechism*)

A little boy, a survivor of a devastating hurricane, attended a day camp for children who had lived through such disasters. During the activity time, the assignment was to draw some pictures and color them. The little boy had other plans. He wanted to make a kite. Kite-making wasn’t part of the curriculum, so the teachers didn’t have the right materials. They told the boy to please sit down and do what the other children were doing. But he would not be dissuaded. He wanted to build and fly a kite.

“Why a kite?” the teachers asked one another. Then it struck them. What a brilliant act of resistance and victory! A kite dances on the wind. It is a way to harness the wind, to control the wind, and even to be friends with the wind. In a sense, a kite uses the wind against itself.

Wind and water had controlled that little boy’s life for months after the disaster. Now he was going to use one of the same forces to fight back. It was a noble, creative and courageous work to reclaim the wind as a partner in play. Soon all the children were making and flying kites.

“He has purchased and freed me from death...with his innocent suffering and death.” In Jesus, God uses death against itself. God takes control of the powers of sin, death and evil to free us from the powers of sin, death and evil. That is the real meaning of the cross of Jesus and of this article of the Creed.

It was a noble, creative and courageous work to reclaim life by co-opting death. That is the mystery of Good Friday and the joy of Easter. The powers that seek to keep us in bondage are used to set us free to live, to love and to serve. We live in a world where sin, death and evil still seek to claim us. The victory is won but the powers won’t yet quit. We are tempted to use the very tools of the evil one—anger and hatred, fear and prejudice, violence and death—to win the day. But we cannot use the tools of evil to overcome the powers of evil. Instead we will plunge deeper into our captivity.

So we use the wind against itself. The sticks that sustain a simple kite are in the shape of a cross. We use the power of death against itself as we serve and sacrifice for the sake of love.

Let’s pray. Dear God, send your Holy Spirit into my heart today to fill me with creativity and courage as I fight at your side. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Do something: If the weather permits, go fly a kite!

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