

A black and orange butterfly is perched on a large, vibrant pink flower. The background is filled with soft-focus pink flowers, creating a warm and natural setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Be not conformed
to this world:*

but be ye transformed
by the renewing of your mind,
*that ye may prove what is
that good, and acceptable,
and perfect, will of God.*

Romans 12:2

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 14th / June 15th 2020

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956). They will be happy to hear from you.

Hymn: 203

(Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word)

Prayer of the Day:

O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Lesson

There were two kings sitting on their thrones making decisions for their countries. There were prophets in front of them telling them that God would give them victory over their enemies. The problem was that the prophets were false prophets. God had not sent them, nor had he made any promises for victory.

How were the kings supposed to know that? How were they supposed to know whether the prophets were right or not?

Good question. The kings were constantly told what they wanted to hear and they were tempted to believe it. It took great faith and humility to listen to the voice of God from a true prophet.

We, too, are confronted with conflicting viewpoints. And we, too, are tempted to believe what we want to hear. How can we know what God is saying?

The problem is that evil spirits are real and they lie very effectively. They are highly skilled at telling us what we want to hear all the while they lead us into traps.

The good news is that God is greater than any evil spirit and we can hear his voice through his word. We have an advantage that these kings did not: We have the Bible. The Bible is God's voice in his inerrant word. It is vital for us to read his word to hear his voice and know the truth.

There will always be false teachers. There will always be temptation to listen only to what we want to hear and to believe what we want to believe. We have to go the Word of God. God's word is our only sure guide, the only source of eternal truth.

God leads us to truth and to freedom and to life. Let's listen to him and do what he says.

1 Kings 22:10-28 (EHV)

¹⁰Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were seated, each on his own throne, arrayed in their robes. They were sitting by the threshing floor at the entrance to the gate of Samaria. All the prophets were prophesying before them.

¹¹Zedekiah son of Kena'anah had made iron horns for himself, and he said, "This is what the LORD says. With these you will gore Aram to death." ¹²All the prophets were prophesying in this same way: "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and triumph, for the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

¹³The messenger who was sent to summon Micaiah said to him, "Pay attention to the words of the prophets. With one mouth they are promising good things to the king. Let your words be like the words of one of them and say something good."

¹⁴But Micaiah said, "As surely as the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that is what I will say."

¹⁵Then he came to the king, and the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go up to make war on Ramoth Gilead, or should we refrain?"

He answered him, "Go up and triumph, for the LORD will give them into the hand of the king."

¹⁶Then the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear that you will tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷Then Micaiah said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep that have no shepherd, and the LORD said, 'They have no masters. Each one should return to his home in peace.'"

¹⁸Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Didn’t I tell you that he does not prophesy anything good about me, but only bad?”

¹⁹Then Micaiah said:

Now hear this word from the LORD.

I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and the whole army of heaven was standing around him, on his right and on his left.

²⁰Then the LORD said, “Who will entice Ahab so that he goes up and falls at Ramoth Gilead?”

One spirit said this. Another one said that. ²¹Finally a spirit came and stood before the LORD and said, “I will entice him.”

The LORD said to him, “How?”

²²He said, “I will go and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.”

Then the LORD said, “You will entice him successfully.

Go and do it.”

²³Now look! The LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouths of all these prophets of yours, for the LORD has decreed disaster for you.

²⁴Then Zedekiah son of Kena’anah came up and struck Micaiah on his cheek and said, “Where is this pathway on which the spirit of the LORD has traveled from me to speak to you?”

²⁵Micaiah said, “Listen to me. You will see it on the day you go into the inner room to hide.”

²⁶Then the king of Israel said, “Seize Micaiah and take him back to Amon, the administrator of the city, and to Joash son of the king. ²⁷Then say, ‘This is what the king says. Put this man in prison and feed him nothing more than bread and water until I come back safely.’”

²⁸Then Micaiah said, “If you ever come back safely, then the LORD has not spoken through me.” Then he said, “Hear this, you people, all of you!”

Gospel Lesson

Matthew chapter 7 is part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. The verses we are going to read are the very last words of the sermon. These are the words that Jesus left ringing in their ears. After teaching about an impressively wide array of divine truth, Jesus left them with two warnings and a promise.

What warnings do you think Jesus would choose to end his sermon? What were the most dangerous things that would threaten people? Would they be about politics? About disease? About character? What would Jesus want them to remember as they walked away from that mountain?

Both of Jesus' warnings are about ignoring the Word of God. The first warning is about false prophets. He warns us to watch out for anyone who teaches anything that contradicts the Bible. He tells us that they will seem great (they wear sheep's clothing), but their teachings can kill you (they are ravenous wolves). What people teach will bring either life or death; it will either bring us closer to God or take us away from him. God's judgment awaits anyone without faith.

Jesus tells us to recognize false prophets by their fruit. Their fruit does not mean their piety or their good works or their popularity or their relevance—or even their miracles (if they have any). Their fruit is what they teach.

Jesus tells us not to listen to false prophets. Only God's Word can save you. Anything else is powerless to save. The only place we can find the words of life are from God himself. You can't get divine truth from a sinful mind (a bad tree cannot produce good fruit).

The second warning is about hearing God's Word but then not doing what it says. This warning is about something just as dangerous as false prophets. It's easy to recognize that the Bible is right. It's even easy to agree with most of it. But only God's power can change hearts and lives to do what God says.

Christians have the amazing ability to choose to obey God or to choose to ignore him. If we ignore God's voice, we reject his wisdom and build our lives on our own (the sand). Then disaster is on its way. The storms of life will overwhelm us and, on our own, we won't be able to withstand them.

But there is a promise! Right in the middle of Jesus' warnings is the promise of strength and endurance in the middle of chaos and storm. God's power surrounds and fills and protects his children. Following God's voice keeps us close to him. Doing what he says strengthens our faith, our life, and our house.

The storms will come. The sinful world will beat against our house. But we will not fall, because our foundation is the eternal Word of God.

Matthew 7:15-29 (EHV)

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? ¹⁷So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will

enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

²⁴“Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. ²⁶Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.”

²⁸When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.

Epistle Lesson

Where can we find truth? Truth is a much sought-after, seldom found treasure. There are many who claim to have the truth, but since so many of them contradict each other, how do we know which truth is true?

What people believe can be influenced by preconceived notions, attitudes, emotions, and experience. It can depend on someone’s opinion of the one who’s saying it.

Can we trust what people say? So many times, people have an agenda. Other times, people just want to get something from you. Can we trust what politicians say? Can we trust the media? Can we trust what we read on the internet or in social media?

Pontius Pilate famously asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38) Is there even such a thing as truth? And if there is, can we find it? And if we can, how can we recognize it? People even claim that their truth can differ from your truth or that truth depends on perspective.

Many people even tell us to distrust the Bible. How many times have you heard someone say that what the Bible says is just a matter of interpretation?

Thank God that there is solid, unbiased, eternal truth. Thank God that His Word is more than just interpretation. God tells us that “No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone’s own interpretation.” The truth of Scripture doesn’t depend on human opinion. The Bible is divine truth, true from God’s eternal, all-knowing perspective. The Bible is always true, no matter what, when, or who.

God's faithful, reliable, inerrant, saving truth stands in stark contrast to the messages of false teachers. God warns us that there will always be someone trying to separate us from God, lead us into sin, and exploit us. God knows about that particular evil, and he will bring justice.

God gave us the Bible so that we can have life! (John 20:31) God wrote the Bible word-for-word as he inspired his people to write. The Bible is never wrong, even though many people have tried to find an error. The Bible is true in every generation and in every situation. God's word is the only truth has never changed, and never needs to.

There is truth. We can find it (John 8:32).

God's word is truth (John 17:17). God wrote it. God guarantees it. And God gave it to us. We can use God's truth to evaluate all other claims to truth. And God's truth sets us free—free from everything sin has corrupted—free from fear—free from death—free to live life in God's grace.

2 Peter 1:20-2:3 (EHV)

²⁰ since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

There were false prophets also among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their depraved ways, and because of them the way of the truth will be blasphemed. ³ In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated messages. Their condemnation announced long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Sermon Text: 2 Peter 1:20-2:3

Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted. Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease.

Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, and Lisa Schmitt.

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever and ever.*

Amen.

The Benediction:

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.*

Amen.

Hymn: 293

(God's Word is Our Great Heritage)

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."