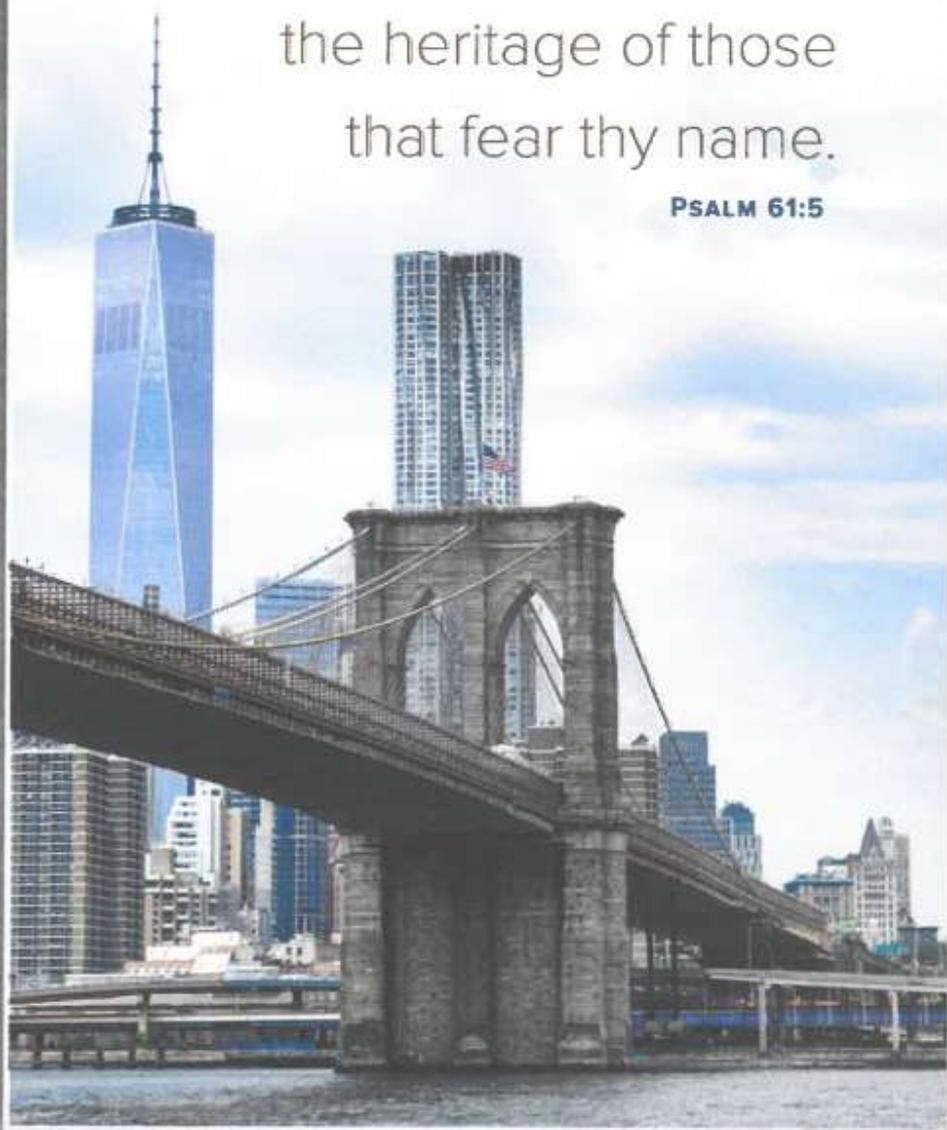


Thou hast given me
the heritage of those
that fear thy name.

PSALM 61:5



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13th / September 14th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

1501 Thomas Street
Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-9868



WELS
Christ's Love. Our Calling.

Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

1216 Colfax Street
Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-2956



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 579)

Lift High the Cross

***Refrain: Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.***

1 Come, Christians, follow
where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the
Son of God.

Refrain

2 Led on their way by this
triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring
ranks combine.

Refrain

Please rise.

3 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.

Refrain

Confessions of Sins:

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

C: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Epistle Lesson

There are people who want things for you. There are people who want things from you. Guess which kind is more common?

Through the apostle Paul, God teaches us that the difference is whom someone is trying to help. When Paul wrote to the Galatians, there were people who were trying to avoid persecution by teaching people to follow the Old Testament law. They weren't really trying to help the Galatians. They were trying to help themselves. Not that circumcision is bad. It isn't—it just doesn't matter spiritually anymore. It was an Old Testament sign; it pointed ahead to Jesus. Now the signs have been fulfilled and have become history; we can learn from them, but we don't have to follow them anymore. We want to follow Jesus instead.

Today there are still more people who want something from you than people who want something for you. Paul wanted the Galatians to have life and joy in Christ. Today, God's church wants everybody to have that, too.

One of the best things about the church is that it is filled with people who care about you. God's people don't want to take anything from you—we want to work together to share God's peace and mercy.

We read from last chapter of the apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians, inspired by God so we can hear and follow his voice.

Galatians 6:12-16 (EHV)

¹² Those who want to look good in the flesh are the ones who are trying to compel you to be circumcised. Their only reason is so that they are not persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ As a matter of fact, those who are circumcised do not keep the law themselves. But they want to have you circumcised, so that they can boast about your flesh.

¹⁴ But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. ¹⁵ In fact, in Christ Jesus circumcision or uncircumcision does not matter. What matters is being a new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy on those who follow this rule, namely, on the Israel of God.

Gospel Lesson

Arguably, the worst thing Jesus ever called someone was “Satan.” Interestingly, he only called one person that and it wasn’t one of his enemies. Ironically, it was right after that same person had given a great confession of faith in Jesus as the Savior and the Son of the living God.

It was Peter, one of his three closest friends. It was someone who loved him and didn’t want to see him suffer.

Jesus had just started to teach his disciples about the plan of salvation. He was clear about what he would have to go through to make it happen. There was a price to be paid and it was an enormously heavy one. He was also pretty clear about his rising from the dead. Peter must have missed that.

Peter almost had to think he was expressing his love for Jesus. He was probably pretty sure he was right. What do suppose Peter thought when Jesus called him “Satan”? It would certainly get his attention. Peter’s good intentions didn’t matter when they contradicted God’s Word. They didn’t matter when he was ignoring God’s plan in favor of his own.

It’s a common (and seriously underestimated) mistake to reduce God’s divine plans to earthly ones. People with very good intentions try to change the church into a good works organization that will provide good will and positive self-esteem, a place where the focus is on what we do and what we want instead a place where we learn what God does and what God wants.

Jesus is pretty clear who’s behind that attempted change: Satan. Satan wants us to forget about sin, salvation, and heaven. He wants to limit our thinking to the world we can see—not the God we cannot.

We pray that God will keep us focused on his plans and his works and his grace. Jesus’ sacrifice freed us from slavery to temporary, sinful things. His resurrection assures us that our life will be with him forever in heaven.

Matthew 16:1-26 (EHV)

²¹ From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?”

Hymn 457 vv. 1,2,4

Fight the Good Fight

1 Fight the good fight
With all your might;
Christ is your strength and
Christ your light.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race
Through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes and seek his
face. Life with its way before us
lies; Christ is the path and Christ
the prize.

4 Faint not nor fear;
His arms are near.
He changes not, and you are dear.
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is Lord eternally.

Sermon Text – The Church Militant Becomes Triumphant

Samson was the rock star of judges. He had the fame. He had the power. He had the exciting life.

And he had the blindness, the blindness of focusing so much on himself and what he wanted that he lost the important things.

Samson was actually blinded twice. First, he was blinded by his desires. He was so blinded that we sometimes shake our heads in wonder. When he told Delilah something that would leave him helpless—the next morning it happened. Then he told her something else that would leave him helpless—and it happened again! Then it happened a third time! What did he think was going to happen when he told her everything?

Samson lost sight of who he was and where he belonged. He forgot that he was God's servant, a Nazirite from birth. God gave Samson great strength to do God's will, not to serve himself. Samson lost that.

Then, when he gave everything away to Delilah, he was blinded again.

Ironically, this blinding opened his eyes. Samson was taken, imprisoned, and humiliated. And he looked once again to God. He repented. He put his life into God's hands and pleaded that God would give him strength to serve him one more time.

He lost his life, but died in faith. Like the thief on the cross next to Jesus, he cried, "Remember me!" Once again, he was a man of faith. He had in mind the things of God rather than men. He realized that his treasure was in heaven and he gave his life in service to his Savior God.

We read from the 16th chapter of the book of Judges, written by God to teach us.

Judges 16:22-31 (EHV)

²² But the hair on his head began to grow after it had been shaved.

²³ Meanwhile, the serens of the Philistines gathered to make a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to celebrate. They said, "Our god has given our enemy Samson into our hands."

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god: "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, the devastator of our land, who has caused the death of many of us."

²⁵ When they were feeling good, they said, "Send for Samson, so that he can provide amusement for us." They summoned Samson from the prison, and he served as their entertainment.

They made Samson stand between the pillars. ²⁶ He said to the young man who led him by his hand, "Put me where I can touch the pillars that support the building, so I can lean upon them." ²⁷ The building was full of men and women, as well as all the serens of the Philistines. On the roof were about three thousand more men and women watching Samson as he was amusing them.

²⁸ Samson called out to the LORD. He said, "LORD God, remember me, I pray. Give me strength, I pray, this one more time, O God. Let me get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes in one act of vengeance." ²⁹ Samson then grasped the two central pillars supporting the building. He leaned against them, one with his right hand and one with his left. ³⁰ Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." He pushed with all his strength, and the building fell upon the serens and upon all the people who were inside.

The Philistines he put to death when he died were more numerous than those he had put to death during his lifetime.

³¹ Then his brothers and his father's entire household went down, carried him back, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had served as judge of Israel for twenty years.

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

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, and Aaron Wood

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.*

Words of Intuition:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Supper:

We now have the incredible privilege of approaching the Lord's altar at his invitation to receive His body and blood in the sacrament. We come, not because we are worthy, but because He invites us.

Come, for all things are now ready:

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 452 vv. 1-3)

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 Follow his example pure,
 Flee the world which would deceive
 us
 And to sin our souls allure.
 Ever in his footsteps treading,
 Body here, yet soul above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,
 Let us do the Father's bidding.
 Faithful Lord, abide with me.
 Savior, lead; I follow thee.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,
 To his image e'er conform;
 Heaven's glory soon will please us,
 Sunshine follow on the storm.
 Though we sow in tears of sorrow,
 We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
 And the fears that now annoy
 Shall be laughter on the morrow.
 Christ, I suffer here with thee;
 There, oh, share thy joy with me.

3. Let us also die with Jesus.
 His death from the second death,
 From our soul's destruction, frees us,
 Quickens us with life's glad breath.
 Let us mortify, while living,
 Flesh and blood and die to sin,
 And the grave that shuts us in
 Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here I die to thee,
 There to live eternally.

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."*