

Let us have
grace,

*whereby we may serve God acceptably
with reverence and godly fear.*

HEBREWS 12:28



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27th / September 28th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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WELS
Christ's Love. Our Calling.

Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

1216 Colfax Street
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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 238 vv. 1-3)

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

1 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless his
name
Whose favors are divine.

2 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let his mercies lie
Forgotten in
Un-thankfulness
And without praises die.

3 Tis he forgives my sins;
Tis he relieves my pain;
Tis he that heals my sicknesses
And makes me young again.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Epistle Lesson

What effect do you have when you enter a conversation? There are people who bring wisdom, peace, and clarity to a conversation. There are also people who bring bitterness, anger, and confusion. Which one are you?

We can be either one, depending on the words we choose. We can be a blessing or a curse. With the words we choose, we can make someone's day, or ruin it.

Through the apostle Paul, God taught the Ephesians to eliminate toxic speech and to choose to build people up and to bless them. Rage and anger are the result of sin, not of faith. Faith brings forgiveness and compassion.

We pray that God would cause us to grow in faith, to become more and more like Jesus. We want to forgive the same way we're forgiven. We know how much we need to be forgiven for our selfish thoughts, our careless words, and our hurtful deeds. When we sin, want our forgiveness to be complete, our guilt completely washed away, and our good name restored.

So does everyone else. So do the people who sin against us. Let's offer God's complete forgiveness and walk in the love that only God can bring.

We read from the apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, inspired by God, beginning in chapter 4.

Ephesians 4:29-5:2 (EHV)

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³² Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

5 Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ² And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Gospel Lesson

How many times do you have to forgive someone for the same thing, over and over, until you realize they aren't going to stop? When is enough, enough? Sometimes people just don't deserve to be forgiven; they need to face judgment.

Right?

It seems reasonable—even just! It's what Peter asked Jesus: "How many times must I forgive?"

Do you think Peter realized that he had a double standard? Do we?

Far too often, there is a vast difference between the forgiveness we want for ourselves and the forgiveness we offer people who sin against us.

When we sin, we want God to forgive us—even if we've committed that same sin a thousand times. We want that guilt completely wiped away. We don't want God to define us by that sin or to remember it anymore. We

want to be a forgiven, beloved, child of God. We know we're going to sin again (and again—and again), but we don't want God to look at us that way. We cling to the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross.

And then we want to know when we can stop forgiving someone else.

So, Jesus told a story—a story about us, when we don't want to forgive. In the parable, we need to see just how deep our debt is, how impossible for us to pay—and how incredible God's forgiveness is. Then we want to take that forgiveness and share it—as freely as God forgives us—especially to people who don't deserve it. That's how God forgives us—every time!

We read from the apostle Matthew's inspired, firsthand account of Jesus' life, chapter 18.

Matthew 18:21-35 (EHV)

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Hymn 493

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

1. "Forgive our sins as we
forgive,"
You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.
3. In blazing light your cross
reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us;
How great our debt to you!

2. How can your pardon reach
and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will
not let
Old bitterness depart?
4. Lord, cleanse the depths
within our souls
And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of
love
Our lives will spread your peace.

Sermon Text:

The Church Is a Forgiving Place

Sometimes it's hard to believe that we're forgiven—really forgiven—completely forgiven. Not just "I-won't-punish-you-but-I-will-always-see-you-as-a-sinner" forgiven, but "Your-sins-are-completely-gone—I-don't-even-remember-them—and-I-love-you-with-all-my-heart" forgiven. It's hard to imagine it because we know that we don't deserve it. We feel our guilt and we know the darkness that still lives in our hearts. We know that our thoughts aren't holy, our actions aren't pure, and our words don't always sound like Jesus. And we don't stop sinning. We know who we are.

But we underestimate God. His love is limitless. His forgiveness is complete. And he means it when he says our sins are gone. He doesn't see sin when he looks at us; he sees his children—washed clean and pure.

Joseph's brothers are a great example of carrying guilt and underestimating forgiveness.

And Joseph is a good example of God's heart.

When their father, Jacob, died, it occurred to Joseph's brothers that Joseph might have been waiting until his father was gone before he paid them back for the horrible things they had done to him. So, they tried to leverage Joseph's feelings for his father to keep Joseph from hurting them.

Joseph wept when they said that. He had forgiven them a long time ago. He was focused on what God was doing and he really wanted to share God's love with his family. There was nothing left to forgive. It broke his heart to realize that his brothers were still trapped in their guilt and their shame. He wanted them to experience the joy and the freedom of forgiveness. What a beautiful picture of God's grace!

God's people still display that grace. The church is a place of forgiveness. It's a place where guilt is removed and shame is washed away. It's a place where sinners find freedom and share the love of God with each other. It's rare to find a place where everyone is equally guilty and just as equally forgiven. It has to be a place filled with God—a place where we're gathered in his name. It's church. Come and share the love!

We read from Moses' God-inspired history of the ancient world in Genesis, chapter 50.

Genesis 20:15-21 (EHV)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶ They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷ 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Called Home to Heaven – Our Lord, in his mercy called his daughter, **Katie Nast**, home to his side in heaven on September 22, 2020. We will miss her dearly, but we rejoice in her triumph and thank God for delivering Katie from her tribulations.

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

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 760 v.1

When Peace Like a River

- 1 When peace like a riv-er at-tend-eth my way,
When sor-rows like sea bil-lows roll
What -ev-er my lot, thou hast taught me to

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."*