

A lighthouse with a white stone tower and a black lantern room with a red interior, perched on a rugged, grey rock cliff. The scene is set at sunset, with a warm orange and yellow glow in the sky. The lighthouse is illuminated from below, casting a soft light on the surrounding rocks.

YE ARE ALL
THE CHILDREN
OF

light,

AND THE
CHILDREN
OF THE

day.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:5

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th / October 5th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Marinette, WI 54143
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Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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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.

How Great Thou Art

(Hymn 256)

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"**

- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,

Refrain

- 3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain

- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Confession of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Assurance of Forgiveness

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Epistle Lesson

God's Grace Is Beyond Fair

Is God fair? Is God just? Do we want him to be?

If God gave us what we deserve, we wouldn't survive it. We know that. The law is painfully clear about what we've done. Our conscience is unnervingly persistent in reminding us that we deserve his wrath and punishment. The last thing I want from God is what I deserve!

Amazingly, instead of what I deserve, he gives me grace! We might be tempted to say that it's not fair. It would seem that, to be fair, people should get what they deserve, whether it's good or bad. That sounds fair. But God does even better than that--his plan is both fair and gracious! He didn't ignore what I deserve—he paid for it! And he paid for it with his life. That is inconceivably gracious! And he made that payment available to everybody, everywhere!

The apostle Paul wrote about God's plan of salvation—about the tragedy of his own's people rejecting God. It's not that God's word had failed. It didn't. God's word works powerfully wherever it goes. But its success doesn't depend on human effort or delivery. It depends entirely on God's mercy.

Our salvation doesn't depend on what we do or who we are. Our salvation depends only on God. In the Old Testament, God's chosen people weren't created by Abraham's plans or desires, they were created by God's promise. Now, in the New Testament, we don't make ourselves God's people, God does—through his Word and Sacraments. God choose us; we don't choose him. And God's election has nothing to do with merit or worth or works, but only his inconceivable grace and mercy.

God is God. His judgment is the only one that matters. We praise him that he chose to show us mercy and compassion!

Romans 9:6-16 (EHV)

⁶This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, ⁷and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. ¹¹Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue— ¹²not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust?

Absolutely not! ¹⁵For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Gospel Lesson

What is it about human nature that it always wants more? Children have all their basic needs provided by their parents and they want more. All it takes is to see someone's new toy, new shoes, new bike, new friend, and a sudden desire wells up in the human heart. When people grow a little older, there is a drive for a bigger house, a newer car, or a better phone. No matter how much we currently have, it doesn't take much to want something bigger or better or newer.

Satisfaction and contentment are rare and often fleeting.

Have you ever felt like the people whom the landowner hired first? They very probably considered themselves fortunate to have been hired so quickly. They were offered a fair wage for honest work that they could handle. Then more people starting to come throughout the day to help. At the end of the day, they probably felt pretty satisfied.

Ironically, it was the owner's generosity that started to change their contentment into greed. They saw people who worked less receive more and envy started to grow within their hearts. What they had once considered fair no longer satisfied them. They wanted more.

We rightly recognize that they were wrong, but we know too well the pull of envy and what it feels like to accuse God of being unfair.

How is it that the grace that God showered on us and the miraculous world that he provides can start to feel like it's not enough? How can we even begin to believe that God owes us more? He sacrificed everything to rescue us from sin and death. He provides a beautiful, finely crafted world for our home. He surrounds us with his love, answers our prayers, guides, comforts, and strengthens us with his word—and we want more.

Isn't it amazing how often the people who richest in earthly blessings tend to appreciate God the least? And the people who have the least of God's earthly gifts tend to appreciate him most?

"Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

Which ones are we?

Matthew 20:1-16 (EHV)

"Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. ⁴ To these he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶ When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?'

⁷ "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.'

⁹ "When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. ¹¹ After

they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ¹² ‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. ¹⁵ Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

Salvation unto Us Has Come

(Hymn 390 vv. 1,2,4)

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
 By God’s free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
 They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
 Who did for all the world atone;
 He is the one Redeemer.

- 2 What God does in his law demand
 And none to him can render,
Brings wrath and woe on ev’ry hand
 For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
 The spirit of the law requires,
 And lost is our condition.

- 4 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
 Or we must die despairing.
Christ came and has God’s anger stilled,
 Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed.
And thus the Father’s vengeance stayed
 Which over us impended

Sermon Text: *God is Not Fair - He Gives What We Do Not Deserve*

Jonah thought God was being unfair. God had just forgiven and saved the city of Nineveh. Jonah wanted Nineveh destroyed; in his mind it would only be fair. Nineveh was wicked, bloodthirsty, and terrifying. Jonah had not wanted to prophesy to them because he was afraid that they might listen and repent. Jonah knew what that would mean: God would have compassion on them and forgive them (Jonah 4:4).

But God is far more gracious than Jonah could have even imagined. He reached out to the people of Nineveh with the Gospel and saved their lives. Then, he reached out to Jonah to help him understand God's grace and his love. God is an amazing teacher. He taught Jonah when Jonah least expected it. God used an object lesson that got Jonah's attention, engaged his emotions, and opened his eyes.

God provided a plant. Jonah had no part in the creation, growth, or life of this plant, but he was emotionally attached to it. He was so happy about the plant. It provided shade and comforted him in the desert heat.

Then God provided a worm. The worm killed the plant. Then God provided a scorching east wind and sunshine so hot that Jonah was about to faint. Jonah was not happy about the worm, the wind, or the sun—and he was angry about the plant.

God had Jonah's attention. Jonah was concerned about the plant even though he didn't work for it or make it grow. It was only there for one day. And Jonah cared about it.

Now think about how God felt about the people of Nineveh (even the cows!) God made them; sustained them; and loved them. How could God not want to save them? God's grace is immeasurable!

The more we learn about God's love, the more comfort we have in a sinful world and the better we can share it.

Jonah 4:5-11 (EHV)

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

⁶Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!"

¹⁰So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. ¹¹So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?"

Prayers for Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Jean Harper, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, Marjorie Urbaniak, 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.*

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.*

God Loved the World So that He Gave

(Hymn 391 vv. 1,3)

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

- 3 God would not have the sinner die —
His Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word does teach
How we the blessed goal may reach.

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."*