



He that ministereth
seed to the sower

*both minister bread for your food...
and increase the fruits of your righteousness.*

2 Corinthians 9:10

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18th / October 19th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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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)

Day by Day

(Hymn 765)

1. Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where, at last, I'll find eternal rest.
2. Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold your face.
3. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

Please rise

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

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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

Paul was concerned. He didn't want the people he loved in Corinth to receive God's grace in vain.

Is that even possible?

Remember Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed? Only one out of the four types of ground produced fruit. One had the Word snatched away and two others lost faith after it started to grow. Only one grew to maturity. It is heartbreakingly common to receive God's grace and then lose it.

Paul didn't want that to happen to the people in Corinth. God doesn't want that to happen to us. He explains that serving God will encounter resistance, require sacrifice, change your life, and be misunderstood. It also means that we work with the power of God, the weapons of righteousness, and Word of Truth. The list that God had Paul write down is eye-opening, heart wrenching, nerve wracking, and inspiring.

Serving in God’s kingdom is amazing and it’s hard. With the current restrictions, we are spending more and more time separated from each other. We can’t do it alone. We need brothers and sisters in Christ to support us, encourage us, and to share our joy. We are far more likely to grow in faith when we grow together. We are far less likely to receive God’s grace in vain. The apostle Paul wanted the Corinthians to share their hearts with him. God wants us to open our hearts to each other! We’re family!

2 Corinthians 6:1–13 (EHV)

¹As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ²For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

³We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed. ⁴Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God’s ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, ⁵in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; ⁶in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, ⁷in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet being honest, ⁹treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; ¹⁰as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken to you openly, Corinthians. Our heart is standing wide open. ¹²We have plenty of room for you, but you do not have room for us in your affections. ¹³I am speaking as to my children: In exchange, open your hearts wide too.

Gospel Lesson

Think about what God has given us. He’s given us a world with everything we need—not just to survive, but to thrive, to find joy, purpose, and fulfillment.

What does God get in return? Violence, murder, selfishness, and rebellion.

Now think about God’s response to all that. Jesus told a parable about people who take God’s world and refuse to acknowledge him. God’s response is amazing.

When the owner of the vineyard sent his servants to collect what he was owed, his servants were met with increasing violence. First a beating. Then a murder. The murder by stoning. We can’t help but think of the treatment

Jeremiah and so many of God's prophets received at the hands of their own people.

What was God's response?

He sent more servants! He kept reaching out to rebellious people.

God's patience is unparalleled. His love is overwhelming!

But sin doesn't stop so easily. God kept sending servants. And the people kept dealing out violence the rebellion.

And what was God's response to that?

He sent his only son. He knew what would happen. He knew that people would reject, abuse, and murder his beloved son. And he would take that barbarity and use it to redeem people. Only God can do that!

At the end of the parable, Jesus left a warning. Anyone who opposes him will come to a wretched end. Since Israel's leaders refused to repent, God's kingdom would be taken away from them and given to people who produce fruits of faith.

Now the kingdom is ours. Let's live by faith and serve God with all the gifts he's given us.

Matthew 21:33–43 (EHV)

³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!’ ³⁹They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

⁴¹They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

⁴³“That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose

(Hymn 466 VV. 1-3)

- 1 Though thoughtless thousands choose the road
 That leads the soul away from God,
 This happiness, dear Lord, be mine:
 To live and die entirely thine.

- 2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
 From him my life, my all, receive,
 To him devote my fleeting hours,
 Serve him alone with all my pow'rs.

- 3 Christ is my everlasting all.
 To him I look; on him I call.
 He will my ev'ry want supply
 In time and through eternity.

Old Testament/Sermon Text:

God is Nurturing - He Seeks Fruits of Faith

King Manasseh was a piece of work. He was the poster boy for evil. He started when he was twelve years old and for 55 years, he committed every atrocity and every blasphemy that he could think of. He undid all the good work that his father had done. Then he dove headlong into idolatry, omens, and evil. He put profane altars into God's own house. He sacrificed his son in the fire. He filled Jerusalem with blood. He led God's people into such apostasy that their sin was worse than the nations that God had driven out.

Manasseh defied and rebelled against God for decades! What can you do with someone like that?

God was patient. God kept reaching out. And, when he was ignored, he reached out again.

God is patient like no other.

How long are we willing to put up with defiance? How long will we reach out to someone who refuses to listen? God's patience is awe-inspiring. It also brings us to our knees in in worship. God is patient with us. When we sin, he reaches out. When we ignore him, he reaches out again. When we defy him, when we commit the same sins over and over again, when we ignore him, insult him, and shame him, He is patient with us.

God's patience with Manasseh illustrates God's grace and the depth of his love. Think about the depth of Manasseh's sin as we read this text this morning. Then be in awe of God's grace when you realize that God forgave him! We understand God's judgment. People deserve it. What brings us to our knees in worship is God's forgiveness. He sent his Son to forgive us. Jesus died to forgive even the worst of sinners.

2 Kings 21:1–15 (EHV)

¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

²He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the disgusting practices of the nations which the LORD had driven out before the people of Israel. ³He rebuilt the high places which his father Hezekiah had destroyed. He erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, just as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to the whole army of the heavens, and he served them. ⁴He built altars in the House of the LORD, about which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my name." ⁵He built altars to all the army of the heavens in the two courtyards of the House of the LORD.

⁶He made his son pass through the fire. He practiced fortune telling and sought omens and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He greatly increased the evil he did in the eyes of the LORD and provoked him to anger.

⁷He put an image of Asherah, which he had made, into the house about which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. ⁸I will not make the feet of Israel wander again from the land which I gave to their fathers, if they will just be careful to do whatever I commanded them and to observe the whole law which my servant Moses commanded them." ⁹But they did not listen. Manasseh led them astray so that they did more evil than the nations whom the LORD exterminated before the people of Israel.

¹⁰Then the Lord said through his prophets:

¹¹Because Manasseh king of Judah has engaged in these disgusting practices and has done more evil than all that which the Amorites who had gone before him had done, and he has caused Judah to sin with his filthy idols, ¹²therefore, this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says. Pay attention! I am bringing such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of all who hear of it will tingle. ¹³I will stretch out over Israel the plumb line that was stretched out over Samaria and the level used on the house of Ahab. I will wipe away Jerusalem just as someone wipes a bowl clean and turns it upside down. ¹⁴I will hand over the remnant of my possession and give them into the hand of their enemies, so that they become plunder and spoils for all their enemies, ¹⁵because they have done what is evil in my eyes and have provoked me to anger from the day when their fathers came out of Egypt until today.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

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

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

(Hymn 319)

On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Have no powr' to hide your face.
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation.

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."*