

The fruit of the Spirit is

*love, joy, peace, longsuffering,
gentleness, goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance.*

GALATIANS 5:22-23



Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

October 25th / October 26th 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)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

(Hymn 331)

1 Guide me, O thou great
Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'ful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth
flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv'rer,
Be thou still my strength and
shield.

Please rise

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside,
Death of death and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Song of praises
I will ever give to thee.

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

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

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Do the churches look emptier to you? Where did all the Christians go? Some of the emptiness is due to the restrictions and the concerns about COVID-19, but not all of it. Sometimes it seems that Christians are becoming rarer and harder to find. Elijah knew how that felt. He thought he was the only one left. The Christian congregation in Rome seemed to be worried about that, too. They were concerned that God had rejected the Jewish people.

God assured them through the apostle Paul that he did not reject his people. He preserved a “remnant chosen by grace.”

Think about how God phrased that. First, there is a remnant. That means that Christians will always be a small part of the population, saved like Noah from an unbelieving and corrupt world. Second, we are chosen. Before the creation of the universe, God chose us to be his own. That is one of the greatest mysteries ever. Why would God choose people like us? We have nothing to offer. We’re weak and inconsistent. We’re sinful and selfish. And think of how much it cost Jesus to forgive us. God knew all that and he chose us anyway! Why? The answer is at the end of the phrase: “by grace.” God loves people who don’t deserve his love. It’s his immeasurable love that chose us, called us, and preserves us in faith.

Christians are where we have always been: in God’s heart, in God’s care, and in God’s grace.

Romans 11:1-10 (EHV)

So I say, did God reject his people? Absolutely not! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham from the tribe of Benjamin. ²God did not reject his people whom he foreknew—or don’t you know what Scripture says about Elijah, how he was pleading with God against Israel: ³“Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one

left, and they are trying to take my life.”⁴ But what did God’s answer tell him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

⁵ So in the same way at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ Now if it is by grace, then it is not the result of works—otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

⁷ What then? Israel did not receive what it was striving to get. The elect did, but the rest were hardened. ⁸ Just as it is written:

God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear,
right up to the present day.

⁹ And David says:

Let their table be a trap and a net,
and a snare and a retribution for them.

¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened so they do not see,
and let their backs be always bent.

Gospel Lesson

“I just don’t have time that!”

How often do you hear people say that? Time seems to be a pretty scarce commodity. Our days are filled with so many activities, responsibilities, and to-do’s, that we have to choose what we can and cannot fit into our schedules.

Jesus told a parable about where God fits into our priorities. He tells a story about a king who invited people to a wedding banquet for his son, but some of those people thought they had better things to do. They ignored the invitation. They had farms to tend and money to make. They simply didn’t have time for their Lord. Others were aggressive about it. They abused the messengers and even killed them.

It doesn’t surprise us that the king brought swift and furious judgment on those murderers. Rejecting God is neither wise nor safe.

The parable doesn’t stop there. The king proceeded to invite everybody his servants could find and filled his house with guests. That’s a picture of the Christian church today. Everybody is invited. But not everybody is chosen. The man without the wedding clothes is someone who sits among God’s people without faith. Without faith, we stand before God on our own (in our own clothes),

We can’t get into God’s kingdom by responding to an invitation. We can only enter by faith.

And by faith we are filled with gratitude for God’s invitation. We are thrilled to be in God’s presence, celebrating the love of his son. The cares and the concerns of this world fade into the background as we praise our loving Savior.

Matthew 22:1-14 (EHV)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

⁴“Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’

⁵“But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized the king’s servants, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. ¹³Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

(Hymn 282)

1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me your child and heir remain.

2 Your Word inspires my heart within;
Your Word grants healing from my sin.
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

3 To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.

Old Testament/Sermon Text:

God is Gracious - Jesus Saves

King Hezekiah had something to celebrate! It was so big and so important that he wanted everybody in the country to celebrate with him. He sent messengers throughout the country and into Samaria to invite them to come to celebrate the Passover. It had been a long time, but Hezekiah wanted God's people to come back to worship God.

Sadly, most of people he invited laughed at the messengers and ridiculed them. But a few listened and came to God's house in Jerusalem.

Things haven't changed much, have they? We have something big and important to celebrate, too. We worship God, who created the universe and who stepped into our world to sacrifice his life to rescue us. That's big! We invite people to celebrate with us. And, still, most people laugh and disregard the invitation.

But, some listen and return to God's house. So, we keep inviting and we keep celebrating and we keep coming to God's house.

We don't come because we are worthy. We come because God invites us by grace. That hasn't changed either. King Hezekiah, the priests, the Levites, the people from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun all came by grace, just like us. We've all broken God's laws, but God heals us.

So, we worship the Lord our God with all hearts, with all our souls and with all our strength.

2nd Chronicles 30:1-5, 10-22 (EHV)

Hezekiah sent messengers to all Israel and Judah. He also wrote letters inviting Ephraim and Manasseh to come to the House of the LORD at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover for the LORD, the God of Israel. ² The king, his officials, and the whole assembly in Jerusalem had made plans to celebrate the Passover in the second month. ³ They were not able to celebrate it at its proper time, because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem.

⁴ The plan seemed right in the eyes of the king and in the eyes of the whole assembly. ⁵ So they decided to issue a proclamation throughout Israel from Beersheba to Dan to come to observe the Passover for the LORD, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, because they had not been celebrating it with large numbers of people as had been commanded.

¹⁰ The runners went from city to city through the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and even as far as Zebulun, but people laughed at them and ridiculed them. ¹¹ Nevertheless, some men from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹² But in Judah the hand of God was present to give them one heart to follow the command of the king and the command of the officials, in agreement with the word of the LORD. ¹³ Many people gathered in Jerusalem to keep the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month—a very great assembly.

¹⁴ They quickly removed the altars from Jerusalem. They took away all the altars for burning incense and threw them into the Kidron Valley.

¹⁵ They slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites had been put to shame, so they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the House of the LORD. ¹⁶ They took up their positions as prescribed in the Law of Moses, the man of God. The priests splashed the blood, which was given to them by the Levites, against the altar. ¹⁷ Because many of the assembly had not consecrated themselves, the Levites carried out the slaughtering of the Passover lambs for everyone who was not ceremonially clean, to make them holy to the LORD.

¹⁸ A large number of the people, many of whom were from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not purified themselves, but they ate the Passover anyway, in a manner not in keeping with what is written. So Hezekiah prayed for them: “May the good LORD pardon everyone all around, ¹⁹ that is, everyone who seeks God the LORD, the God of his fathers, with all his heart, even though he does not have the ceremonial purity required by the holy place.”

²⁰ The LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹ The people of Israel who were present in Jerusalem observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing. The Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day with loud instruments for the LORD.

²² Hezekiah encouraged the hearts of all the Levites, who displayed wonderful skills in service of the LORD. They ate the food of the festival for the appointed seven days, presenting fellowship sacrifices and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Called Home to Heaven – Jean Spangenberg was called Home. Pray that God will comfort her family and friends in their loss. Pray also that she will prepare us for our joyful reunion in heaven! The funeral is at Hanson-Onion-Martell Funeral Home today at 2:00 pm.

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 What Has Now Been Sown

(Hymn 322 vv. 1,3)

1 On what has now been sown
Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone
To make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise
And you alone shall have the
praise!

3 Oh, grant that each of us
Now met before you here
May meet together thus
When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our
home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

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."*