

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
October 2nd, 2022

Introduction to the Day

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of
one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

Gathering Hymn "All Are Welcome"

#641 vs. 1,3,4,5

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reading: Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost,

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.
Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my
complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

This is a chunk of Luke's gospel that doesn't seem to fit. The heading on this section is quite literally, "other things Jesus said." It is as though the writer of Luke's Gospel remembered these things and decided to put them here. At first glance, any substantial context is lacking, at best.

There is next to nothing that offers clarity regarding the Good News for this day.

First, the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. This begs the question, is faith measurable?

Jesus seems to think no. Or, at least if it is measurable, even a very little can do a whole lot. We've heard this before. Jesus tells us that even the smallest amount of faith can lead a person through an incredible amount of stuff in life. The example Jesus uses makes it seem like even a little bit of gives you magic powers. That's not the point. The point Jesus makes, in response to the disciples wanting him to increase their faith, is that even with little you can do much.

The second part of these 6 short verses uses the difficult language of slavery.

For good reason, we shudder when we hear that word, and it is even more difficult to realize that is what Jesus is calling us to do/be. For reading purposes, and to hopefully get beyond, though not to diminish, the feelings that word may bring up, we substitute the word servants. Jesus, in this example calls his followers to adopt the attitude of the servant. That, in doing their tasks, when completed, they don't feel that their work is done, but rather, they look for the next task

Yes, it is abrupt in how he tells it, and yes, it is not the most appealing, but Jesus is continuing his theme of discussing the cost of discipleship.

The servant, when they are done with their task looks for the next because that is what a servant does. They don't wash up and declare their work done for the day. They assume there is more work to be done.

That is what Jesus calls us to as people living in God's kingdom. We are called not to rest on our laurels, but to look for where next we are needed.

For Jesus speaking to his disciples, he is affirming for them their identity as Christ followers that they are called into a life of service, and they are to serve because of that identity and not as a means to a reward.

That is where we get this mixed up.

We are so quick to tell ourselves how wonderfully we have done and what we deserve because of it, when Jesus simply tells us that doing good for others is what we are supposed to do. He even goes as far as to ask his disciples if we are really supposed to thank someone for doing what they're supposed to do.

I don't want to go that far, but Jesus does. "Would you really invite the servant to sit and eat with you? No, you'd send them to the kitchen to continue with the meal and they'll eat later." Harsh, yes. But, that might be Jesus' point.

There is work to be done and we need to do it.

If you went to a restaurant would you invite your server to sit and dine with you? No. It is their duty as a server at the restaurant to serve! It's literally in their job title.

That doesn't mean we can't and shouldn't show gratitude. It is more saying we should do good for others hoping to be thanked. Yes it feels good to be noticed. Yes, we hope our goodness inspires others to do the same. But we should do good for others simply because they need it. If we're doing it because we need to be recognized, we're doing it for the wrong reasons.

People of God, this is grace.

Talking with confirmation students a couple of weeks ago we discussed this idea of God's grace.

We so often think that we do good for others because we have to and that is how we get what we get, when it is actually the opposite.

We do good for others because in our baptism we are freed from that need for reward because that reward is already given, and the good we do is something we GET to do. We don't do SO THAT we receive God's grace, but because we already have.

The question asked to confirmation students was, "does that mean we get to pat ourselves on the back when it is done?" No. Martin Luther would tell us that our faith without our good deeds for our neighbor is dead.

Find yourself asking the same question that these disciples are asking, "Jesus, increase our faith?"

People of God it is done through serving others.

That is what God's Kingdom needs. It is not about what we need. It never is. It is about our neighbor and what they need, and the trust that they, too, are looking out for theirs.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Song of the Day

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

#512

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ (*rostered and lay leaders may be named*). Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster (*especially*): relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died (*especially*). Bring us all to eternal life with you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Communion

Prayer

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.
Amen.

Sending Song

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praise”

#535

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!
And all of Good Shepherd said,
AMEN!

3 Quarter Financial Snapshot

Year to Date Finances

Total Revenue **\$221,347**

Total Expenses **\$223,324**

\$1,977 Gap

Compared to \$29,118 last year

Month of September

Revenue	Expenses
\$17,568	\$19,931
\$2,363 Gap	

Coming in October

5 Sundays
Stewardship Launch
Quarterly Insurance
\$25,000 projected expenses

“Calling all Artists”, to share their form of “Art” at an Arts Fellowship Event. This event is the collaboration of six ELCA churches in Eau Claire. The event will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 30, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Hope Lutheran Church. Each church will have a music group sharing an anthem and artists to display their artwork. . Can you share woodcarvings, pottery/sculpture, rosemaling/folk painting, photography, jewelry, batik, or stained glass? If you are interested or you have questions, please see Sue Kramer, or leave a message with the church office and she'll get back to you.

If you have prayer requests or needs that we can help with, please contact one of us.
pastorlcgsec@gmail.com or lcgseauclaire@gmail.com.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY STREET MINISTRY

NEEDS LIST

Mens Underwear

Stretchy gloves
(one-size-fits-all)

TENNIS SHOES SIZES 10-12 (INGOOD REPAIR)

Hoodies - All Sizes

BACKPACKS

TENTS - 1 TO 2 MAN

Sleeping bags

Gatorade

FOOD CARDS

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE...

DONATE ONLINE AT:

WWW.CHIPPEWAVALLEYSTREETMINISTRY.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/CHIPPEWAVALLEYSREETMINISTRY

Donations can be dropped off at

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1120 Cedar St., Eau Claire, WI 54703

Monetary donations can be mailed to:

Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, PO Box 51, Eau Claire, WI 54702