

**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Introduction to the Day**

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days.

**Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice,**  
**love kindness,**  
**and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**

**Show us the path that leads to life.**

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Indescribable”**

**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**

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading: Genesis 32:22-31**

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message**

## **Gospel: Luke 18:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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

With all of the approaches that we can take to Jesus and his parables...

With all of the questions that we can ask...

With all of the roles that we can assign to ourselves,

To God,

And to others...

It is sometimes simply best to listen catch the “why” behind these stories that Jesus tells.

Always, when parables are told, they are prefaced with an exchange, a question, something happening that prompts Jesus telling the story. And, sometimes Jesus simply says, “I’m telling you this story, and this is why.”

In our Gospel text today we are told straightforward why Jesus tells the story that he tells. At least Luke’s opinion on the matter.

“Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.”

If we hear only one thing today. If we remember only one thing from worship today. Let it be that.

Jesus tells a story to illustrate God’s desire to have God’s people continually praying and to not lose heart. If there were ever a text that illustrates God’s desire to be in relationship with us, it is this one!

Jesus does go on, and he does tell a story.

We get a story of an unjust judge and a widow who wishes for justice against her opponent. We don’t know who her opponent is. We don’t know the situation. We only know that she begs for justice.

She is a bother. An annoyance. To the point that, in order to quiet her, the judge does grant her justice against her opponent. SO THAT she will leave him alone he grants her justice. NOT because it is the right thing to do, but because he is bothered.

Jesus uses this example to tell us that God is the other way around. God’s grace isn’t a SO THAT transaction. God will grant justice, and quickly, to those who seek it BECAUSE God is gracious and merciful.

Not to quiet us, but to embrace us.

Not to make us go away, but to bring us in. That is God’s love. That is God’s grace.

Which is good...as long as things are good.

But what about those who are seeking justice? What about those who've lived under unjust systems for too long? And prayed for an end for too long? And have seen nothing. Especially not quickly.

What then? How does this hopeful, grace filled, relationship centric, text hit those who have lost all hope, could use a bit of grace, and whose relationship are broken?

What then?

It is in asking these questions that we realize the call in this Gospel. That while for many of us it may be a feel good text, for all of us it is a call.

Week in and week out, and many times between our worship gatherings, there is a prayer that we pray. It is a prayer that Jesus taught us to pray and it is a prayer that freely rolls off our tongues, for many without any thought.

The Lord's Prayer.

And in that prayer we pray this line: Thy will be done on earth as it is on heaven.

It is a relatively core belief of ours as Lutherans, as Theologians of the Cross, that in heaven there is no pain, suffering, injustice, hunger, poverty, and the list goes on.

And it is in praying "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," that we realize our call as people of faith. You see, that idea of Heaven is what we believe God's will to be. And, if we pray that God's will be felt here on earth as well, then are we not called to do something about it? Are we not, in some way, shape, or form, responsible for seeing those things through?

This Gospel text isn't ONLY about God's desire in Jesus Christ to be in relationship with us, but it is a call for us to remember God's desire in Jesus Christ for us to be in relationship with others as well.

It is a call for us to yes, reach out to God annoyingly pursuing that relationship knowing that God is doing the same, but to also hear God's persistent call to repair that which we have broken. To seek out that relationship that we maybe thought was dead.

To feed that person that we'd rather judge.

To cut through the red tape that we'd rather consider our reason.

People of God, the widow crying for justice is all around us. This text demands us to ask if we are going to be like the judge who grants justice SO THAT she leaves us alone, or like God who grants justice BECAUSE it is the gracious and merciful thing to do.

Whichever we chose, we must realize that both do something about the injustice in their midst.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

## Song of the Day

## “Our God”

### 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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work (*local ministries may be named*), that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace (*especially*), that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. For those who need your healing (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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**                      **“Everlasting God”**

#### **Dismissal**

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

# October Financial Snapshot

Through October 12

Total Revenue **\$13,199**

Total Expenses **\$7,940**

**\$1,125 Gap**

Still to come in October

3 Sunday Offerings  
Stewardship Launch  
Quarterly Insurance  
\$25,000 projected expenses



**Election Day Bake Sale**  
It's your civic duty!

Bakers needed  
for the Good Shepherd Outreach  
Election Day Bake Sale!  
Contact Heather Garber  
Set-up help needed November 7th  
(Not your polling place? We can accommodate)




## 1st Annual FALL ARTS CELEBRATION



Sponsored by:

Good Shepherd, Immanuel, Grace, Trinity,  
St. Johns and Hope Lutheran Church's

***This Year Hosted by Hope Lutheran Church***

***2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire WI***

***October 30th***



***1:00 Art viewing***

***2:00 Choir concert***

***3:00 Art viewing***



Refreshments and desserts available . Concert is a free will offering to support the ELCA's Neighbor to Neighbor program.

***Come and admire awesome artwork.***

***Some for sale and some for the viewing.***

Paintings (watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastels)

Woodcarvings

Pottery and Sculpture

Rosemaling and Folk Painting

Photography

Jewelry

Batik

Stained Glass

Current Covid Protocols will be followed.



**Trunk or Treat**

October 30  
2-4 pm  
Lutheran Church of the  
Good Shepherd  
parking lot

If you'd like to decorate  
your trunk, email:  
lcgsfaithform@gmail.com