



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 27, 2020

Introduction to the day

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. After each confession, please respond Holy God, have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **First Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON The Rev. Stacey-Kyle Rea**

## **Prayers of the People**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. We especially pray for people who are recovering from damage from flooding, fires and storms this day.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. We especially pray for those on our prayer list, and all we name before you now:

*A brief silence*

Bring comfort to those who mourn, especially Jerry on the death of Janice, and Pat on the death of Chris.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

*Thank you for remembering Christ's ministry at Trinity, as ministries and expenses continue.*

- **Offering by online giving:**  
Make a gift to the general fund at  
<http://trinityfairview.com/give>
- Bill pay option with your local bank
- By Mail:  
Send your offering to:  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
PO Box 340  
Fairview Village, PA 19409

*Please contact Kim Travetti if you would like to receive a consecrated home communion kit for you and your family. Include the number of individuals who will receive communion in your request. Gluten free home communion kits are available.*

## 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.

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## SENDING PRAYER

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.  
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:  
a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

May God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
Amen.

## DISMISSAL

### *The Sending into Mission for the World*

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**



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