

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 13 - August 22, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #435 - *“The Will of God Is Always Best”***

**The will of God is always best  
And shall be done forever.  
And they who trust in him are blest;  
He will forsake them never.  
He helps indeed in time of need;  
He chastens with forbearing.  
They who depend on God, their friend,  
Shall not be left despairing.**

**God is my comfort and my trust,  
My hope and life abiding,  
And to his counsel, wise and just,  
I yield, in him confiding.  
The very hairs, his Word declares,  
Upon my head he numbers.  
By night and day God is my stay;  
He never sleeps nor slumbers.**

**Lord, this I ask; oh, hear my plea -  
Deny me not this favor:  
When Satan sorely troubles me,  
Then do not let me waver.  
Keep watch and ward, O gracious Lord;  
Fulfill your faithful saying:  
All who believe by grace receive  
An answer to their praying.**

**When life's brief course on earth is run  
And I this world am leaving,  
Grant me to say, "Your will be done,"  
Your faithful Word believing.  
My heav'nly Friend, I now commend  
My soul into your keeping,  
O'er sin and hell and death as well  
Through you the vict'ry reaping.**

**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:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**First Lesson: Proverbs 9:1-6**

Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has already set her table. She has sent out her servant girls. She calls from the highest point in the city, "Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here." To someone who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding." (EHV)

**Psalm 1**

**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the 'wicked  
Or stand in the way of 'sinners.**

**But his delight is in the law ‘of the LORD,  
And on his law he meditates ‘day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its fruit in ‘season  
And whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does ‘prosper.**

**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the ‘judgment,  
Nor sinners in the assembly of the ‘righteous.**

**For the LORD watches over the way of the ‘righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will ‘perish.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son  
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,  
As it was in the be’ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.**

**Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20**

Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as unwise people, but as wise people. Make the most of your time, because the days are evil. For this reason, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk on wine, which causes you to lose control. Instead, be filled with the Spirit by speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
Alleluia.

**Gospel: John 6:51-58**

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the

flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.” (EHV)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Hymn #423 - “*Not in Anger, Mighty God*”**

**Not in anger, mighty God,  
Not in anger smite us.  
We must perish if your rod  
Justly should requite us.  
We are naught; sin has brought,  
Lord, your wrath upon us.  
Yet have mercy on us!**

**Show me now a Father’s love  
And his tender patience.  
Heal my wounded soul; remove  
These too sore temptations.  
I am weak; Father, speak  
Now of peace and gladness;  
Comfort me in sadness.**

**My dear Savior comes in grace;  
He will always hear me.  
I may come before his face;  
He is ever near me.  
He o'erthrows all my foes;  
Death and hell are vanquished,  
In whose bonds I languished.**

**Father, hymns to you we raise  
With sincere thanksgiving  
And the Son and Spirit praise  
With repentant living.  
Evermore we adore  
You whose love has stirred us  
And whose pity heard us.**

**The Sermon:        Ephesians 5:15-20  
                          “Live As People Who Are Wise”**

Living in our world today calls for a lot of **wisdom**. When it comes to **finances**, it's important to **spend** our resources wisely, as well as to **invest** them wisely. If we **don't** act wisely, we'll end up with unmanageable **credit card debt**, or we may even have to go through **bankruptcy**. When we're driving our **cars** - when we're operating a **chainsaw** - when we're sitting around a **campfire** - and in so many **other** situations which we face on a very regular basis - it's important to make **wise** decisions. If we **don't**, we could end up hurting **ourselves**, and we could also end up hurting **others** too. Certainly those are things we'd like to **avoid** - and being **wise** about our actions can help us to **do** that. But it's even **more important** for us to use **wisdom** in our **spiritual** lives, because our **eternity** depends on it. We can **wisely** spend our eternity in **heaven**, or we can **foolishly** spend it in **hell**. So, we want to make **wise** spiritual decisions for our **own** benefit, as well as for the benefit of our **family** and **friends**.

Our Lord **wants** us to be **wise**. One entire book of the **Bible** - the Book of **Proverbs** - is **dedicated** to teaching us how to live **wisely**. We heard some of those words in our 1st lesson today. But in our sermon this morning, we're going to spend some time considering some of the words which the Apostle **Paul** wrote to the **Ephesians** - words which encourage us to **Live As People Who Are Wise**. We can **do** that by making the most of our **time**, by understanding what the **Lord's** will is, and by being filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

Our text begins, *“Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as **unwise** people, but as **wise** people. Make the **most** of your **time**, because **the days are evil**.”* Paul first directs us to the use of our **time**. Our time is **precious**, and just as we wouldn't want our **keys** or our **money** to slip out through **holes** in our pockets, we don't want our **time** to slip away either. God gives us all kinds of opportunities to **grow** in our **faith**, and to be **served** by His **Word**. And He encourages us to **do** just that - to make the **most** of our time.

That's important because the world we live in is filled with **evil**. **Godlessness** and **immorality** continue to **prosper** among the people around us. Back in the 60's it was **free love**. Since the passing of Roe vs. Wade it's been the **killing** of thousands of **babies** every year through **abortions**. For as long as I can remember it's been couples **living together** without being **married**, and more recently even a total **attack** on God's **design** for marriage - one **man** and one **woman** for a **lifetime**. Now the most radical parts of our society are trying to drive **wedges** between various groups of people by teaching us and our children that we fit into one of two groups - we are either **privileged** or **oppressed** - as critical race theory is being pushed in our **schools**, in our **businesses**, and in the **media**.

All of these things are **sinful**, and God wants us to **repent** of our sins - to turn **away** from them, and to receive the merciful **forgiveness** which was earned for us by His Son. People are all wrapped up in their businesses, and in sports and recreation, and all too often they think that it's **unimportant** to take the time to listen to and to study **God's Word** - the **Gospel** which is the **only** thing which can save their souls. That's not very **wise**, is it. If we were given an additional day every week, what would we **do** with the extra **time**? Many people would **work** more hours, in order to **earn** more money, so they could **buy** more things. Others would use the time to catch up on their **sleep**. Still others would try to fit in as much **fun** as possible. It's not that there's anything **wrong** with **any** of those choices. But the question is, are those choices really making the **most** of our time? The world we live in is filled with **evil**. How can we safely navigate our way **through** it?

The world is **evil**, but our **God** is **good**. In His love for sinners He sent His only **Son** to us, and Jesus achieved a **salvation** that is not **“half-baked,”** but rather it's **“well done”**. Jesus' holy life won a **righteousness** for us which makes us **acceptable** to God. His death on the cross **atoned** for the sins of the whole world. He **lives** - and He calls out to **us** through the **Word** to come and **receive** these free gifts for ourselves. Our **time** here on the earth is a time of **grace** - a time to **repent** of our sins and to **believe** in Jesus - a time to be clothed in **His** righteousness, so

we will be able to stand with complete **confidence** before God's throne on the Last Day. God gives us the precious moments of our lives to come to the **banquet** of His **grace** - to attend **worship** and hear His saving **Word** - and to receive the **Lord's Supper** for the **forgiveness** of our sins and the **strengthening** of our faith. All of these things will **equip** us, so that as we face the **evils** of today's world we are able to stand our ground **in faith**. Don't **unwisely** make **light** of these opportunities, but rather, **Live As People Who Are Wise**, and make the most of **every** opportunity to be **enriched** by our gracious Lord.

Now is the time to teach our **children** and **grandchildren** the truth of God's Word, so that they will be deeply rooted in **Jesus** their Savior, and will be able to **join** us one day in **heaven**. We need to make the most of **every** opportunity. In fact, it's beneficial for **all** of us to learn more about our Savior. So, let's give the **highest priority** of our time to things like **worship**, **prayer**, and **Bible study**. And since God wants His heavenly banquet hall to be **filled**, now is **also** the time to tell **others** about Jesus, and His amazing **love** for them. Let's **Live As People Who Are Wise** - making the most of **every opportunity** to let our light **shine**, so that others will **see** that light, and will **come** and **experience** the mercy of Jesus.

Secondly, the Apostle Paul goes on to explain that our lives are not to be centered around **our will** - but rather around the **Lord's will**. He writes, "*Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*" Jesus once told a parable about a man who **foolishly** built his house on **sand** instead of on **solid ground**. Consequently, the foundation was **weak**, and when the **storms** came, the man's house came **tumbling down**. And in **another** parable Jesus told about a man who built **bigger** and **bigger** barns, in order to store up all of his earthly **wealth**. But that night **God** came to take his **life**, and said to him, "*You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?*"

It's **foolish** to spend our lives just trying to accumulate and preserve **earthly wealth**. What's **important** is that we understand what the **Lord's will** is for us, so we will be moved to make **wise** decisions for our **eternal** good. So, what **is** the Lord's will for our life in this world? How does He want us to use our **time**, and our **talents**, and our financial **treasures**? How does God want us to build up our **marriages** and **families**? The **answers** to these questions are found in **God's Word**. There we learn that it's God's will for us to be **content** with food and clothing and the **necessities** of life. There we learn that it's God's will for us to be rich toward **Him**, and to store up treasures for ourselves in **heaven** - treasures which will never **rust** or **decay**. There we learn that it's God's will for us to build our **lives**, our **marriages**, and our **families** on our Lord **Jesus** and His **Word**,

because **He** is that solid, immovable **rock** which will always **stand firm** when the storms and stresses of life afflict us.

To really **know** God's will and put it into **practice** involves keeping a **clear head**. Paul writes, "*Do not get drunk on **wine**, which causes you to **lose control**. Instead, be filled with the **Spirit**.*" The **excessive** use of alcoholic beverages, and mind altering drugs, is all too **common** in our world. The **reasons** for that are **varied**. Some people use them to try to **escape** from the problems they experience at home or at work. And all too often, the **misuse** of alcohol and drugs leads to even **more** problems. So Paul encourages us "*Do not get drunk on **wine**, which causes you to **lose control**. Instead, be filled with the **Spirit**.*" The Holy Spirit was poured into our hearts at the time of our **baptism**, and He **continues** to work in our hearts day after day - freeing us from the **guilt** of our sins with the **forgiveness** which was won by **Jesus** - renewing our **faith**, and restoring the **joy** of salvation for us.

The Holy Spirit **accomplishes** these things by leading His people to gather together to **worship** the Lord, and to **encourage** one another in our **faith**. Paul goes on to write, "*Be filled with the **Spirit** by speaking to one another with **psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs** (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), by always giving thanks for **everything** to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" The **hymns** we sing each week contain the Good News of God's **mercy** to us in Jesus. They tell about God's **love** in sending His Son to win **forgiveness** for us. They tell about God's love in sending us the **Holy Spirit** to make us **His people** through **faith** in Jesus. It's truly **wise** for us to actively **participate** in **all** the aspects of our worship services - listening to the **Word**, singing the **hymns**, and praying the **prayers**. All of these things **encourage** us in our walk with **Jesus**, and they offer **real help** to one another.

And finally, Paul encourages us to give **thanks** to God for **everything**. That's what Christian **worship** is all about. We know that because of our **sins** we don't deserve **any** of the things which we enjoy in this life. The blessings of physical **health** and eternal **salvation** - the blessings of **family** and **friends** - the blessings of **work** and **play** - **all** of them are **undeserved** gifts from our gracious God. And so we **thank** God for **all** of the benefits which He has chosen to **share** with us. In fact, we even thank God for the **difficulties** and the **crosses** which He sometimes sends, knowing that in **everything** God is working for the **good** of those who love Him.



The way that you and I live our lives today **matters**. As Paul wrote, *“Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as **unwise** people, but as **wise** people. Make the **most** of your time, because the days are **evil**.”* May we make the most of every opportunity to **hear** and **study** God’s gracious **Word**, to grow in our **understanding** of God’s will, to be filled with the **Holy Spirit**, and to **encourage** one another, as we **Live As People Who Are Wise** . Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Heavenly Father, if it were not for Your mercies, by which You guard, guide, and strengthen us; we would long ago have returned to a life of sin and unbelief. Our enemies are **many**, as well as **powerful**. Satan attacks our faith, trying to crowd You **out** of our hearts, and to sow the seeds of **doubt** and **confusion** in our minds by false doctrine. With deadly persistence he strives to turn us **away** from the way of righteousness, and lead us down the paths of **sin**. Father, through Your Holy Spirit, daily increase our faith in **Jesus**, our Savior. Make it a strong **shield** with which we are able to **extinguish** all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

We know by bitter experience that the **world** is no friend either. It continually beckons us with its lustful **pleasures**, its earthly **treasures**, and its many **temptations**. Through the Holy Spirit, strengthen our love for **Christ**, so that the world will not be able to gain **control** of our hearts, and fill us with a love for material and sinful things.

But evil temptations also attack us from **within**, for we have our sinful **flesh** in which dwells no good thing, and which continually strives **against** our new man. Give us such a rich measure of the Holy Spirit, that through His grace we will become **wiser**, more **moderate** in our living, and more **thankful** to You in **all** things, as we strive to win the victory over sin. Amen.

### **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.**

**Hymn #415 - *“Be Still, My Soul”***

**Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev’ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; your God will undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.**

**Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;  
Then you will better know his love, his heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.  
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay  
From his own fullness all he takes away.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

**P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Blessing:**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #420 - “*God Moves in a Mysterious Way*”**

**God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust him for his grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He has a smiling face.**

**Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan his work in vain;  
God is his own interpreter,  
And he will make it plain.**

**You fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and will break  
In blessing on your head.**