

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 5 - July 5, 2020

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 #618 - *“Before the Lord We Bow”*

**Before the Lord we bow,
The God who reigns above
And rules the world below
In boundless pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring;
In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise
To heav’n’s high King.**

**The nation you have blessed
May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by your care.
For this fair land,
For this bright day
Our thanks we pay -
Gifts of your hand.**

**May ev’ry mountain height,
Each vale and forest green,
Shine in your Word’s pure light
And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev’ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song!**

**Earth, hear your Maker’s voice;
Your great Redeemer own.**

**Believe, obey, rejoice,
And worship him alone.
Cast down your pride!
Your sin deplore
And bow before
The Crucified!**

**And when in pow'r he comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
And, joyful, sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song!**

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: Jeremiah 20:7-13

You persuaded me, Lord, and I agreed to it. You are stronger than I am, and you won out. I have become a laughingstock all day long, and everyone is mocking me. Whenever I speak, I cry out. I cry out, "Violence and destruction!" But the word of the Lord has brought scorn on me. I am mocked all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him or speak in his name anymore," then there is a burning fire in my heart, shut up in my bones, and I am weary of holding it in. I cannot! I hear many

whispering, "Terror on every side!" All my close friends, those who are watching for my fall, say, "Denounce him! Let's denounce him. Perhaps he can be pressured into making a mistake. Then we will have the upper hand against him, and we will take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior. So my persecutors will stumble, and they will not gain the upper hand. They will be put to shame completely, because they have not been successful. Their eternal disgrace will never be forgotten. Lord of Armies, you test the righteous. You see the heart and the mind. Let me see your vengeance on them, for I have laid out my case before you. Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord, for he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of the wicked. (EHV)

Psalm 31:

Refrain: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

**In you, O LORD, I have taken 'refuge;
Deliver me in your 'righteousness.**

**Be my rock of 'refuge,
A strong fortress to 'save me.**

**Into your hands I commit my 'spirit;
Redeem me, O LORD, the 'God of truth.**

Refrain: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

**My times are 'in your hands;
Save me in your un'failing love.**

**How great is your 'goodness,
Which you have stored up for those who 'fear you.**

**You heard my cry for 'mercy
When I called to 'you for help.**

**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: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-15

So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one's account if there is no law, and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. But the gracious gift is not like Adam's trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many! (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-33

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven." (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 #447 - *"Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode"*

**Who trusts in God, a strong abode
In heav'n and earth possesses;
Who looks in love to Christ above -
No fear his heart oppresses.
In you alone, dear Lord, we own
Sweet hope and consolation,
Our shield from foes, our balm for woes,
Our great and sure salvation.**

**Though Satan's wrath beset our path
And worldly scorn assail us,
While you are near, we will not fear;
Your strength will never fail us.
Your rod and staff will keep us safe
And guide our steps forever;
Nor shades of death nor hell beneath
Our souls from you will sever.**

**In all the strife of mortal life
Our feet will stand securely.
Temptation's hour will lose its pow'r,
For you will guard us surely.
O God, renew with heav'nly dew**

**Our body, soul, and spirit
Until we stand at your right hand
Through Jesus' saving merit.**

**The Sermon: Matthew 10:24-33
 “Three Thoughts About Our Gracious God”**

One of the things that I really enjoy about our **home** here in Osceola, is being able to **watch** and **listen** to the **birds**. We have all kinds of different birds living in our bird **houses**, coming to our **feeders**, and flying around from tree to tree. I **appreciate** the variety of all the different **colors**, and **patterns** that God has given to them. I always **marvel** that a bird as tiny as a **wren** can have such a strong and beautiful **song**. God has truly done **wonderful** things for us in the marvels of His creation. I can only **imagine** what they must have been like back in the Garden of Eden when they were still **perfect**, before we had **destroyed** that perfection with **sin**. But God graciously **took care** of that problem. He sacrificed His **Son** on the cross - a death that paid for our **sins**, which had **wrecked** all the perfect things He had **created**. And then God **raised** His Son from the dead, declaring His **victory** over sin, death, the devil; and guaranteeing that **we also** will rise from the grave, to live with Him **eternally**.

Our text for today provides us with **Three Thoughts About Our Gracious God**. First of all, He is our **Master**. Secondly, His **care** for us is **great**. And finally, He wants us to **proclaim** His goodness to the world.

Our text begins, “*A **disciple** is not above his **teacher**, nor is a **servant** above his **master**. It is enough for the disciple to be **like** his teacher and the servant **like** his master.*” Jesus is our **Master**, but when we **hear** that, we don't particularly **like** the way it **sounds**. The term “**master**” is equated with **slavery** in today's society, and **slavery** is something which leaves more than a **bad taste** in everyone's mouth. Slavery brings to mind man's **inhumanity** to man - **hardship** and **pain** - **misuse** and **abuse**. And the **master** is the one who is **behind** it all. In this country we fought a **Civil War** in order to get **rid** of slavery. Unfortunately, it's still around.

In our text for today, Jesus was talking to His chosen 12 disciples, whom He was sending out into the **world** to be His **witnesses**. He told them that they would be **rejected** by their own people. He told them that they would be like **sheep** among **wolves**. He told them that they would be handed over to the **authorities** because they were His followers. But He also told them not to **worry**, because the Holy Spirit would be with them to **help** them in their time of need. Then Jesus did

something very interesting. He compared His **disciples** to **Himself** - their **teacher** and their **master**. They would be going through the same kind of persecution that **He** would be going through, and since He is their **Master**, He wanted them to **imitate** Him.

Jesus also sends each of **us** out into this world, and He wants **us** to imitate Him too. It's our **calling** to declare the praises of God. It's our high **honor** to make our Savior **known** to others. But the conditions **we** encounter will not be **friendly** ones **either**. Jesus said, *"If you were **of** the world, the world would **love** its own. However, because you are **not** of the world, but I have chosen you **out** of it, for that very reason the world **hates** you."* People who have the **world** as their master don't like to be **disturbed** from their way of life. They become **angry** and even downright **vicious** to people who encourage them to **repent**, and **turn away** from their godlessness. But the **world** is not **our** master - **Jesus is**.

Sometimes, perhaps more often than not, we tend to **forget** that Jesus is our **Master**. In fact, all too often, we **reverse** that idea, and think of **ourselves** as the masters. We go to God and we want Him to do things **our way**. We want Him to give us good **health**, a good **job**, and a stable **family** life. We want Him to provide us with **money** in the bank and a solid **retirement** plan. We might even want to be viewed as **popular** and **influential**. But, what if that's **not** what **God wants** for us? Can we **handle** that? After all, **He** is our **Master**, and **we** are His **servants**, and as Jesus said, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a **servant** above his **master**."*

Concerning **Himself** Jesus said, *"The Son of Man did not come to **be served**, but to **serve**, and to give his **life** as a ransom for many."* When Jesus came here to the earth, He came as a **servant**. He **obeyed** His heavenly Father in **everything** - even to the point of **suffering the punishment** for the sins of the entire **world** - and ultimately dying a most **gruesome** and **shameful** kind of death by **crucifixion**. So, how do **we** fit in as **His** servants?

Can we **follow** that example? Obviously, not **perfectly**, and not in the same **way** as our Savior did. But we can **start** by appreciating everything our gracious God has **done** for us. Our God has provided us with **forgiveness**, **life**, and **salvation**. God's care for us is **great**. Jesus made that very obvious in our text when He compared us to **sparrows**. He said, *"Are not **two** sparrows sold for a **small coin**? Yet not **one** of them will fall to the ground without the **knowledge** and **consent** of your Father. And even the **hairs** of your head are all **numbered**. So do not be **afraid**. You are worth **more** than **many** sparrows."* God the Father

almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, tells us that He preserves even the most **insignificant** creatures He has made - like **sparrows**. Back in the days of our text, two sparrows sold for a **small coin** - a coin that was worth **less** than half an hour's wage. Today we would say that they weren't even "a **dime a dozen**." Yet those same sparrows were **not overlooked** by God. They were included in the heavenly Father's **personal care**.

And of course **we** are worth more than **many** sparrows. How about that! Not only are we worth more than "a dime a dozen" to God the Father, but we are worth the **perfect life** of God's own **Son**. From the foundation of the world, God **chose** us in Christ to be His very own. What a **privilege**, and what a **blessing**. But we turned **away** from Him, and **banished** ourselves from His family. That was when God showed us how much we were **worth** to Him. Our God gave up His one and only **Son** for us. Jesus shed His holy, precious **blood** on the cross to set us **free** from the **punishment** which our sins deserved. That precious **sacrifice** restored us to God's **family**, so now we can look forward to that special place in **heaven** which He has prepared for each one of us. We can be sure that God will continue to **watch over** us and keep us **safe** from all harm, because we always have the comforting promise of His Son, "*I give them **eternal life**, and they will **never** perish. **No one** will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. **No one** can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*" We are truly God's **children**, and God **always** takes **care** of His children. Our heavenly Father is **intensely** concerned about us, even down to the **tiniest detail**. We never need to worry about **anything**, because we can always count on His **love** and **care**. God's care for us is **great**. That should lead us to more than just an **appreciation** for what God has done for us. It should lead us to **proclaim** His goodness to the **world**.

Every day God gives His believing people a **song** to sing, just like He does for the **birds**. It's the song of **God's goodness**, and that song goes out into the **world** in a lot of different ways. We sing it whenever we have a **baptism**, and we proclaim that this child is being baptized "*In the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son** and of the Holy **Spirit**.*" We sing it whenever we bring our cares and concerns to the LORD in **prayer**, confident that He will **hear** and **answer** us. And we even sing it when one of our loved ones has passed away, and entered the eternal rest of heaven as we proclaim, "*I'm but a **stranger** here, **heaven** is my home.*" God has called each of us to **faith**, and He has given us the joy of singing out the song of His **goodness** to the world.

But confessing our faith in Jesus as our Savior can often bring on lots of **trouble** and **suffering** for us, so we can easily become **afraid** to speak out about the **goodness** of our gracious God. We can be **mocked** and **ridiculed** - we can be called **ignorant** and **out-of-touch** - we can even be **ostracized** and **deserted** by family and friends. But the LORD doesn't **want** us to be **afraid** to keep on proclaiming His goodness. He **knows** our fears, and He gives us the **strength** and the **encouragement** we need to **overcome** them through His Word and Sacrament.

In our text for today Jesus said, *“Do not **fear** those who kill the **body** but **cannot** kill the **soul**.”* The people of our unbelieving world may be able to cause us **grief**, or hurt our **feelings**, or damage our **reputation**, and at their very **worst** they may even be able to **kill** our **body**, but they **cannot** kill our **soul**. They cannot cause us any **eternal** harm because the Bible assures us, *“(God) gave us a new **birth** into a living **hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an **inheritance** that is **undying**, **undefiled**, and **unfading**, kept in **heaven** for you.”*

Dear friends, we don't need to **ignore** all the terrible things which are going on all around us, but we don't need to be **afraid** of them either. Let's focus our attention on the wonderful things which our God **has** done and **continues** to do for us. Let's remember that our gracious God is our **Master** - that His **care** for us is **great** - and that He wants us to **proclaim** His goodness to the world. Amen.

Prayers:

Almighty God, we acknowledge with **thanks** that all we have and enjoy is a gift from Your gracious hand. We come before You today in heartfelt **appreciation** for our **nation** and its **people**. We thank You for enabling us to **worship** You in **freedom**, and to **serve** You without **fear**. You have enriched us with the **bounties** of farm and factory, the **beauty** of forest and mountain, and the **marvels** of medicine and science. For all these blessings, we **praise** and **glorify** You. Look with **favor** on our nation, and **preserve** our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with **wisdom**, **honesty**, **courage**, and **justice**. **Protect** those who serve in the armed forces, and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities. Give us willingness to **obey** our nation's laws and to work for the common **good**. Keep our **financial** institutions secure and our **economy** strong. Bless our **fields** that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from **calamities** of nature and accident, and **spare** our land from the **ravages** of disease and epidemic. Teach us **not** to worry, but to cast all our cares on **You**. Strengthen the **homes** of our nation. By Your Spirit lead husbands and wives to **love** each

other, parents to **nurture** their children, young adults to assume **responsibility**, and children to show **respect**. To You, O Lord, we bring our **thanks** and our **requests**. Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. 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 #439 - "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

**Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So take my hand and lead me unto the end.**

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 #619 - “*God Bless Our Native Land*”

**God bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do thou our country save
By thy great might.**

**For her our prayers shall rise
To God above the skies;
On him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To thee aloud we cry,
God save the state!**