

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 2 - June 14, 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 #190 - "We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost"

**We now implore God the Holy Ghost
For the true faith which we need the most,
That in our last moments he may befriend us
And, as homeward we journey, attend us.
Lord, have mercy!**

**Shine in our hearts, O most precious Light,
That we Jesus Christ may know aright,
Clinging to our Savior, whose blood has bought us,
Who again to our homeland has brought us.
Lord, have mercy!**

**O sacred Love, grace on us bestow,
Set our hearts with heav'nly fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Of one mind, in peace with ev'ry brother.
Lord, have mercy!**

**O highest Comfort in ev'ry need,
Grant that neither shame nor death we heed
That e'en then our courage may never fail us
When the foe shall accuse and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!**

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: Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28

Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead. Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the Lord promised to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth. You see, I am placing before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, or the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the Lord your God and you turn away from the path that I am commanding you today by walking after other gods whom you did not know.
(EHV)

Psalm 78:

Refrain: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

**O my people, hear my 'teaching,
Listen to the words 'of my mouth.**

**I will utter things 'from of old,
What we have heard and what our fathers have 'told us.**

**We will not hide them from our 'children;
We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds 'of the LORD.**

Refrain: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

**The LORD decreed statutes for ‘Jacob
And established the law in ‘Israel,**

**So the next generation would ‘know them,
And they in turn would tell their ‘children.**

**Then they would put their ‘trust in God
And would not forget his deeds but would keep ‘his commands.**

**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: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Second Lesson: Romans 3:21-25a, 27-28

But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle - by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 7:15-29

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the

kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - it was completely destroyed." When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law. (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 #284 - "*How Precious Is the Book Divine*"

**How precious is the Book divine,
By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.**

**Its light, descending from above
Our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays a Savior's boundless love
And brings his glories near.**

**It shows to us our wand'ring ways
And where our feet have trod
But brings to view the matchless grace
Of a forgiving God.**

**This lamp through all the dreary night
Of life shall guide our way
Till we behold the clearer light
Of an eternal day.**

**The Sermon: Matthew 7:15-29
 "Be A Wise Builder"**

In our sermon today, we are going to start out by looking at the **construction** industry. Most of you probably know a number of people from our community, or the surrounding area, who are involved in the various **phases** of that industry, and hopefully my information will not **conflict** with theirs. In order to be a **wise** builder, you need to have at least a basic knowledge of both **construction** and **architecture**. A **wise** builder keeps informed regarding the latest building **materials** which are on the market. He keeps up to date on all the building **codes** and **restrictions** which exist in the communities where he plans to build. He is well supplied with the **tools** of his trade, as well as with the **workers** to put those tools to good use. Overall, the construction industry is pretty **complicated** in our world today, and only the **best** are successful on a **large** scale.

As we explore the construction industry in our sermon today, we're going to see that Jesus wasn't really talking about building **buildings**. Rather, He was talking about building **lives**. And just like any builder of **buildings**, as we build our **lives** we need to be aware of all the different **phases** which are involved in the process - the building **designs**, the building **structures**, the building **materials**, the building **codes**, and the building **tools**. However we also need to be aware that we are only **sub**-contractors in this process, for the Bible tells us, "*Every house is built by someone, and God is the one who built everything.*" Our text today encourages each of us to **Be A Wise Builder** of our lives - making use of God's **design**, God's **structure**, God's **materials**, God's **codes**, and God's **tools**.

Now as simple and straight-forward as that advice sounds, all of you realize that it's not that **simple**. It's not **easy** to **Be A Wise Builder** of lives, and the difficulties began to show themselves already back in the Garden of **Eden**, and the

difficulties which **Adam** and **Eve** faced in their family life. As you well know, God had made Adam the **head** of his family, giving him all the **privileges** and **responsibilities** which go along with that position. And because God saw that Adam could not survive on his **own**, He made **Eve** to be Adam's **helper**, providing her with the ability to **love** and **support** her God-given husband, and giving her all the **comfort** and **security** which go along with that position. And yet, they **messed up** - they fell victim to Satan's **temptation**, and they fell into **sin**. They did not turn out to be very **Wise Builders**. So, in order for **us** to **Be Wise Builders**, we're going to need some **help** - **lots** of help. And in our text today, Jesus Himself provides us with the answers. He said, *"Everyone who hears these **words** of mine, and **does** them will be like a **wise** man who built his house on **bedrock**."*

Here Jesus **teaches** us how to build **lives**, by **reminding** us of how to build **buildings**. He starts at the very beginning with the **foundation**. There were two men in Jesus' story - one **wise**, and one **foolish**. The wise man recognized that he was only a **beginner**, so he looked for some **help**. And apparently, he got some pretty good **advice**. The experts told him that in order to have a **strong** building, he would need to have a firm **foundation**. So, he took a lot of **time**, and dug **deep** down into the ground, until he found **solid bedrock**. It was only **then** that he began to build his **house**. On the **other** hand, the **foolish** man was anxious to move ahead with his life **quickly**. So, he didn't **bother** to take the time to seek any **advice**. Why, he didn't even **think about** providing a **foundation** for his house. He just looked **around**, picked out a nice **flat** spot next to a **river**, and started to **build**.

The wise man built his house on **bedrock** - a **firm**, **solid**, and **immovable** foundation. That foundation for our lives is **Jesus** and His **Word**. By using God's Word as the foundation upon which we build our lives, those lives will be **strong** and **prosperous**. How do **I** know? Because **Jesus** said so. Concerning the **wise** builder Jesus said, *"The **rain** came down, the **rivers** rose, and the **winds** blew and beat against that house. But it **did not** fall, because it was founded on **bedrock**."*

Notice that the **storms** of life come into **everyone's** life, both the wise **and** the foolish, and regardless of the **foundation** or **lack** of one. Christians are by no means **exempt** from earthly trials and tribulations. Those problems can come in all kinds of **shapes** and **sizes** - various **tragedies**, **car** accidents, **cancer** cells, **tornadoes**, **marriage** problems, **financial** troubles - even **divine** calls. The waters of life are **deep**, the winds are **strong**, and the rocks are **craggy**. But the wise man built his life on **bedrock** - on the solid foundation of **Jesus** - and what he built **survived** the storms of life.

Faith in **Jesus** is the first and most important **ingredient** in **Being A Wise Builder**. And in our text today, Jesus also gives us some very practical insights on how we can tell if our faith is **real**, or if we are only **deceiving** ourselves. Do you **remember** what He said? *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My **Father** in heaven.”* Jesus tells us that faith is **more** than just putting a religious **vener** on our lives. It was Jesus Himself who asked, *“Why do you **call** me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and **do not do** what I say?”* Jesus wasn’t **impressed** by the people who said all the right things on the **outside**, but had nothing worthwhile on the **inside**. People got Jesus’ attention when they **followed through** on their words with **actions**.

The same thing is true when **we** say that we want to **Be Wise Builders** of our lives. That’s what **everybody** says. The **difference** in people shows up in the kind of **materials** we **choose** to do that building. **One** builder will choose to use God’s **Word** and the **Sacraments** - understanding that it is through **God alone** that there can be **any** success in our earthly lives - and wanting to give glory to **God** for providing us with **forgiveness** for our sins, **strength** for our lives, and **salvation** for all eternity. **Another** builder will **reject** what God says in His Word, and will choose instead to use building materials readily found in the **world** to build up his life - things like accumulating **possessions**, having **power** over or **prestige** among other people, seeking instant **gratification** for a variety of perceived needs, and abusing **alcohol** and other **drugs** to escape from the realities of life. Both people **say** that they want to **Be Wise Builders**, but only the **first** one - the one who looks for his happiness and success in **God** - can truly be considered **wise**.

And that brings us to **you**. You **also** say that you want to **Be Wise Builders** of your lives. But **how** will you **build** that life? You have already been **blessed** with a firm and solid **foundation** for your life through your **baptism**, and instruction in God’s **Word**. That gets you off to a great **start**. But how will you proceed with building the **superstructure** of your life? I’d like to read for you the words of an article I read a while back, which expresses 8 different **blessings** from a **friend** - as well as the **reason behind** each of those blessings. I think they are particularly **fitting** as we look back on the past couple of **months**, and consider the feelings we’ve gone through during the corona virus **pandemic**, as well as the more recent outbreak of **rioting, arson, and looting** all over the world. I consider **every** member of this congregation to be my **friend**, so these words express some of the blessings which I would wish for **all** of you, as you strive to **Be Wise Builders** of your lives. The article reads:

“What would I wish for you, dear friend?

1. Just enough **experience** seasoned with **heartache**, so that you can separate **dreams** from **illusions**.
2. **Denial** touched with **indifference**, so that you will always try **harder**, struggle just a little **more** to reach your goal or to taste victory.
3. Hard **work**, and **lots** of it, so that you might grow blisters on your **hands**, but not on your **attitudes**.
4. **Defeat**, occasionally, in order that your backbone may be **stiffened**, and your emotional muscles **strengthened**.
5. **Need**, so that you will never be afraid to reach out to others for **help**, nor will fail to comprehend that **others** may have need of **you**.
6. **Frustration** in order that you will have to begin **again**, to pick up the shattered **pieces**, and know what it is to have to start **over**.
7. **Fear** - fear of **competition**, fear of **weakness**, and fear of **failure**, so that you will always avoid the destructive **B's** - being **boastful**, **blasé**, and **bored** - and finally
8. **Faith**, so that you will wrap yourself in **God** as your security blanket.

No, I haven't offered you the **easy** path, nor have I tossed out **pretty** phrases to **compliment** or **win** you. But then again, **friendship** is telling it like it **is**. And life is **made** of these things which I have **offered** you. The test is whether you can **take** it, or **not**.”

My dear friends, by the **grace** of God we **can** take it. We have the **knowledge**, the **materials**, the **codes**, and the **tools** to **Be Wise Builders** of our lives. With the **LORD** working **in** us and **through** us, may we always build our lives on the firm foundation of **Jesus Christ**. May we **strengthen** those lives as we hear His Word **faithfully** and **frequently** - and most important of all, may we never fail to put His Word into **practice** as we **live** our lives for **God's** glory. Amen.

Prayers:

O God, our heavenly Father, You know that we are very **sinful** - indeed, the entire **world** is full of iniquity because of the transgression of Adam, the father of us all. In our **thoughts**, in our **words**, and in our **deeds**, we often pattern our lives after the children of this **world**. Even the **good** we do is soiled by the **sins** of which we are continually guilty. We confess that if righteousness and salvation depended upon **our** works, we would be hopelessly **lost** and **condemned**.

But blessed is he whose transgressions are **forgiven**, and whose sins are

covered with the blood of Jesus. Blessed is the person whose sin You do not count **against** him. **Forgive** our sins, and **comfort** us with the peace that comes from knowing that we will **never** be called to account for the **wrongs** we have committed. We plead for Your **mercy** and **forgiveness** - knowing by faith that we **have** it, for Jesus' sake.

Lord, through the Holy Spirit **renew** in us Your **image**, that we may **know** You in **truth**, **worship** You in **spirit**, and **serve** You in **holiness** all our days. And as we look to You for **mercy**, **move** us to be **compassionate** to others, so that we **forgive** those who sin against us, and readily **do good** to all people - even our **enemies**. May our love for **You**, inspired by the great love You have for **us**, be **evident** in everything we say and do. Cause our lives to be fully **dedicated** to Your service.

We confess that we are **unworthy** of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servants, but we are **confident** that You will graciously **continue** to bless us for the sake of Jesus, through whom we have the **gift** of eternal life. Keep **us** and our **households** under Your protection. **Preserve** us from sin, and **protect** us from danger. Through Your Word, **strengthen** our faith, **direct** our wills, and **comfort** our souls. 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 #386 - "Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation"

**Now I have found the firm foundation
Which holds my life forever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation
In Christ my Savior's wounds secure,**

**Foundation which unmoved shall stay
When heav'n and earth will pass away.**

**It is that mercy never ending,
Which human wisdom far transcends,
Of him who, loving arms extending,
To wretched sinners condescends.
His heart with pity still will break
Whether we seek him or forsake.**

**Our ruin God has not intended;
For our salvation he has yearned.
For this his Son to earth descended
And then again to heav'n returned;
For this so patient evermore
He's knocking at our heart's closed door.**

**O depth of love, to me revealing
The sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ my wounds find perfect healing;
There is no condemnation here!
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies
Forever "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.**

**Let mercy cause me to be willing
To bear my lot and not to fret.
While he my restless heart is stilling,
May I this mercy not forget!
Whatever comes my heart to test,
His mercy is my only rest.**

**Lord, I will stand on this foundation
As long as I on earth remain;
This will engage my meditation
While I the breath of life retain.
And then, when face to face with you,
I'll sing your mercy great and true.**

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 #293 - *“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”*

**God’s Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.**