

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 22 - October 24, 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 #521 - "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

**Lord of all nations, grant me grace
To love all people, ev'ry race,
And in each person help me view
My kindred, loved, redeemed by you.**

**Break down the wall that would divide
Your children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
Bind them to me and all to you.**

**Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
By loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
Will hurt my neighbor, Lord, and you.**

**Give me your courage, Lord, to speak
Whenever strong oppress the weak.
And should I be a victim, too,
Help me forgive, rememb'ring you.**

**With your own love may I be filled
And by your Holy Spirit willed,
That all I touch, whate'er I do,
May be divinely touched by you.**

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: Isaiah 53:10-12

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and to allow him to suffer. Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring. He will prolong his days, and the LORD's gracious plan will succeed in his hand. After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life. He will provide satisfaction. Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many, for he himself carried their guilt. Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great, and with the strong he will share plunder, because he poured out his life to death, and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners. He himself carried the sin of many, and he intercedes for the rebels. (EHV)

Psalm 22

Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me?**

**I am a worm and not a man,
Scorned by men and despised by the people.**

**All who see me mock me;
They hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

**“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD ‘rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he de’lights in him.”**

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on
us.**

**My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof ‘of my mouth;
You lay me in the ‘dust of death.**

**A band of evil men has en’circled me,
They have pierced my hands ‘and my feet.**

**They divide my garments a’mong them
And cast lots for my ‘clothing.**

**But you, O LORD, be not ‘far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to ‘help me.**

**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: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on
us.**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 4:9-16

So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God rested from his work. Therefore, let us make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from him, but everything is uncovered and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we will give an account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. So let us approach the

throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said, "Teacher, we wish that you would do for us whatever we ask." He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Promise that we may sit, one at your right and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am going to be baptized with?" "We can," they replied. Jesus told them, "You will drink the cup that I am going to drink and be baptized with the baptism that I am going to be baptized with. But to sit at my right or at my left is not for me to give; rather, these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard this, they were angry with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But that is not the way it is to be among you. Instead, whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you will be a slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (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 #484 - *“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”*

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best -
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

The Sermon: Mark 10:35-45
 “Be Ambitious To Serve”

What is **ambition** - is it a **good** thing, or a **bad** thing? Ambition is having the will and the desire to **do** something with your **time**, and to **make** something of your **life**, and certainly that's **good**. But ambition is not **always** aimed in the **right** direction, and that can be **bad**. For example, consider the man who was arrested for robbing multiple homes. He was **upset** when he got caught, because he wanted to set the **record** for most homes burglarized in a year. **His** ambition was obviously **misdirected**. How about **your** ambition? What do you want to make of **your** life? What is it you want to **accomplish**?

In our text for today our Lord Jesus **teaches** us about ambition, and gives us words to consider that might **surprise** our minds, and **stir up** our believing hearts. He **confronts** the kind of ambition which is so often found in our **world**, and challenges us to think in a completely **different** way. He teaches us to **Be Ambitious To Serve**.

As our text begins, two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, came to Him with a request. "*Promise that we may sit, one at your **right** and one at your **left**, in your **glory**.*" Jesus had often talked about establishing a **kingdom**, and entering into **glory** where He would **rule**. These disciples were confident that Jesus would **reach** His goal. They also figured that Jesus had a few **top** positions for a few **good** men, and they wanted to be first-in-line for those spots.

But the Lord proceeded to **correct** their thinking. Handing out positions of honor and authority was **not** what Jesus was about, nor was it what their minds should be dwelling on. Jesus said, "*You do not know what you are **asking**. Can you drink the cup that **I** am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism that **I** am going to be baptized with?*" The terms, cup and baptism, both refer to the **suffering** and **death** that Jesus would experience on the **cross** when the Father's wrath was poured out on Him as He paid for the sins of the world. "*Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am going to be baptized with?*" He asked James and John. "*We **can**,*" they said, and Jesus responded "*You **will**.*" Of course, Jesus knew that James and John would not suffer in the **same way** as He, the Savior, but they would certainly **suffer** because of their faithful **allegiance** to **Him**. **James** would be **killed** by King Herod, and **John** would be **exiled** to the island of Patmos. Jesus continued, "*To sit at my right or at my left is not for **me** to give; rather, these places belong to those for whom they have been **prepared**.*" Jesus saw Himself as the **lowly servant** of God, a servant who had been sent to **obey** His **Father** in all things. It was **not** His role to grant positions of **power**. His **Father** in heaven would do that, in fact, the Father had already prepared **special places** in His heavenly home for **all** of His believing children.

Are we at times also guilty of seeking positions of **honor**, whether they would be here in our **earthly** lives or in **heaven**? Would we like Trinity to be declared "**Congregation of the Month**?" Maybe we would like to be recognized as "**Christian of the Year**," or maybe we think we should be enshrined in the Christian's "**Hall of Fame**?" If we have ever **had** those thoughts, then we need to be **corrected** just like James and John, because those are **not** the things Jesus has

in **mind** for us. Rather, our lives here on the earth will be similar to the life of **Jesus** - lives that are marked by much **suffering**. The Bible clearly tells us, “*We must go through many **hardships** to enter the kingdom of God.*” So, let’s **not** be ambitious for places of **honor** and **authority**. Those things will come **later**, for Paul told the Romans, “*We **suffer** with him, so that we may **also** be **glorified** with him.*” When Jesus **returns**, and we are gathered before His throne, **then** and **only then** He will say to His children, “*Come, you who are blessed by my Father, **inherit** the kingdom **prepared** for you from the foundation of the world.*”

Jesus’ conversation with **James** and **John** also gave Him the opportunity to teach a lesson to **all 12** of the disciples. And, it’s a lesson for **us** to learn as well. We’re told that when the other ten had **heard** about James and John’s request, they became **upset**. So Jesus gathered them together and told them, “*You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles **lord** it over them, and their great ones **exercise authority** over them.*” The disciples were **well aware** of how officials in the Roman **government** acted - they **lorded** their authority over their citizens. They used their high positions to **force** citizens to wait on **them**, and to indulge **their** whims and **their** egos. But Jesus told them that was **not** to be the case among **His** followers. He said, “*Instead, whoever wants to be **great** among you will be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be **first** among you will be a **slave** of all.*” Greatness in **Jesus’** family lies in **serving** one another. So, He encouraged His **disciples** and **us**, to **Be Ambitious To Serve**.

That’s exactly the **opposite** of how our **world** operates **today**, and it also runs **counter** to the way our **hearts** operate by **nature**. Greatness in the **world** involves being in a position of **power** - where **I** am the **leader** - where **I** am the **head** of a major company - where **I** am so **wealthy** that I can hire **other** people to do all the work **for** me. Who wants to be a **servant**? Personal **pride** runs **deep** within our sinful hearts. It makes us turn **inward** - being only concerned about **ourselves** - asking “What’s in it for **me**?”

In order for Jesus’ lesson on service to take root in our hearts, we need to **repent**. We need to put to **death** our sinful flesh with all its **selfishness** and **ambitions** for **worldly** power. We need to look at **Jesus**, and see what **He** did with **His** life. Jesus said, “*For even the Son of Man did not come to **be** served, but to **serve**, and to give his **life** as a **ransom** for many.*” Jesus offers **Himself** as an **example** of service. The Son of **God** - **equal** to the Heavenly Father in **everything** - humbly became a human being - not to be **waited on** by us, but to **serve** us, and all **mankind**.

You've probably seen movies where someone is **kidnapped** and held in **captivity** until a **ransom** is paid. Our situation was even **worse** than that. **Our own sins** caused us to be kidnapped and held captive by the **devil** - destined to live in the filthy dungeons of hell **forever**. And worst of all, we and our friends and our relatives don't have the **resources** which are needed to pay the **ransom** which God has demanded to **release** us. The Bible says, "*All our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.*" But out of love for us **God Himself** paid the price to set us free. And what **was** that price? It was the perfect life of **Jesus**, God's **holy** and **innocent** Son. In his first letter, Peter tells us, "*You were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that **pass away**, such as **silver or gold**, but with the precious **blood of Christ**, like a lamb without **blemish or spot.***"

Jesus couldn't have **served** us any **better**. He took on a human **body**, so He would be able to live a perfect **life**. Human **blood** surged through His veins, so He would be able to **shed** it on the cross in **payment** for the sins of the world. Jesus' **death** on the cross pays the **ransom** for **every** sin of **every** person. His **sacrifice** has set us **free** to become the people of **God - children** of the Heavenly Father who will share life with Him in heaven **forever**. This loving **service** of Jesus captures our **hearts**, and spurs us on to **respond** to His service, by serving **one another**.

So, **Be Ambitious To Serve**. The apostle Paul writes, "*Let each of you look carefully not only to your **own** interests, but also to the interests of **others**. Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus**. Though he was by nature **God**, he did not consider **equality** with God as a **prize to be displayed**, but he **emptied** himself by taking the nature of a **servant**. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he **humbled** himself and became obedient to the point of **death** - even death on a **cross**." Let Christ's act of serving you with His life lead you to wake up each morning with the thought, "Whom can **I serve** today?" There are opportunities for service **everywhere**. At **home** - at **school** - at **work** - in your **neighborhood** - **everywhere** there are people with **needs** - people who are **lonely**, or **depressed**, or wracked with **guilt**, or **afraid**. The Apostle Paul told the **Ephesians**, "*Serve with **eagerness**, as for the **Lord**,*" because in reality, that is **exactly** what we will be doing - serving the **Lord**.*

And what's the **reward** for our service? For that we turn to **Jesus** - the source of **all** true riches in life. The reward for **serving** one another is the **joy** we have in our **Savior**. Jesus purchased and won us from sin, death, and the devil, so

we could be **His own**, and live **under** Him, and **serve** Him in His kingdom. **Whatever** we do for one another in Jesus' name will **last**, because on the last day He will say to His believers, "*Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your master.*" That's the kind of **Savior** we have. That's the kind of **rest** which lies in our future. And that's what motivates us to **Be Ambitious To Serve**. Amen.

Prayers:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You hearty thanks that You have called us out of the darkness of spiritual **ignorance** through the light of Your Gospel, that You have called us out of the darkness of **sin** and eternal **death** to the light of eternal life through Christ, and that You have called us out of a life of **selfishness** to a life of **service** freely given to You. We pray that You would keep us steadfast and true to our high spiritual calling. Endow us richly with Your Holy Spirit, and by His **grace sustain** our faith, **dispelling** our doubts and confusion, and keeping us **faithful** and **true** to Your Word. Do not permit us to **stray** from that Word, and help us, through diligent use of the Scriptures, to **grow** in knowledge, and to **abound** in faith. Enable us both by **word** and **deed** to share our Savior with the world. Direct our footsteps along the path of **righteousness**. Help us **subdue** our sinful flesh, and prevent us from being **dazzled** by the attractions of this world. Restrain the **devil** and his wicked **angels**, lest they **threaten** our faith and strike **terror** in our hearts.

Create **humble** hearts in us, so that we daily **confess** our sins. For Jesus' sake, **forgive** our sins and put our consciences to **rest**. Fill our hearts with such **gratitude** for Your salvation, that we gladly strive to bring the light of the **Gospel** to those who are without **Christ** and without **hope**.

Keep us from all thoughts, all speech, all desires, and all deeds which do not glorify the precious name of our **Savior**. Cause every Christian virtue to **flourish** in our lives. Teach us to **pray** without ceasing. Through the Spirit, put into our minds and hearts the **things** we ought to ask from You, as well as the **people** who need our prayers. Father, be our Strength, our Hope, and our Light. Guide and keep us through the years, until by grace in Christ we enter eternal life. 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 #497 - "This Is My Will"

**This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
As I have shown that I love you.**

**No greater love can any have
Than that one die to save his friends.
You are my friends if you obey
What I command that you should do.**

**I call you now no longer slaves;
No slave knows all the master does.
I call you friends, for all I hear
My Father say, you hear from me.**

**You chose not me, but I chose you,
That you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
Should bear much fruit that will abide.**

**All that you ask my Father dear
For my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
That love should dwell in each, in all.**

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 #524 - “O Fount of Good, for All Your Love”

**O Fount of good, for all your love
Our true thanks should be paid.
What can we render, Lord, to you,
When you own all that’s made?**

**But you have needy brothers here,
Partakers of your grace,
Whose names you will yourself confess
Before the Father’s face.**

**In their sad accents of distress
Your pleading voice is heard;
You may in them be clothed and fed
And visited and cheered.**

**Then help us, Lord, your yoke to wear
And gladly do your will,
Each other’s daily burdens share,
The law of love fulfill.**

**Your face with rev’rence and with love
We in the poor will view,
And, while we minister to them,
We do it as to you.**