

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 19 - October 3, 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 #769 - "Lord of All Hopefulness"

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

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: Numbers 11:16, 24-29

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather seventy men from the elders of Israel for me, men whom you know to be elders and officers for the people. Take them to the Tent of Meeting and make them stand there with you. Moses went out and told the people the Lord’s words. He gathered seventy men from the elders of the people and had them stand all around the tent. The Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him. He took from the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do it again. Two men, however, remained in the camp. The name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other was Medad. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the tent. The Spirit rested on them, and they prophesied back in the camp. A young man ran and reported this to Moses. He said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!” Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide from his youth, answered, “My lord Moses, stop them!” Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? If only all of the Lord’s people were prophets so that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!” (EHV)

Psalm 51b

Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

**O Lord, open ‘my lips,
And my mouth will de’clare your praise.**

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would ‘bring it;
You do not take pleasure in burnt ‘offerings.**

**The sacrifices of God are a broken ‘spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will ‘not despise.**

Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

**Create in me a pure 'heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit with'in me.**

**Do not cast me from your 'presence
Or take your Holy Spirit 'from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your sal'vation,
And grant me a willing spirit, to sus'tain me.**

**Then I will teach transgressors 'your ways,
And sinners will turn 'back to you.**

**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: Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Second Lesson: James 4:7-12

So, submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded people. Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be changed into mourning and your joy into gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will lift you up. Do not speak against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother is speaking against the law and judging the law. But if you judge the law, you are not one who does the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge. He is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor? (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name. We tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not try to stop him, because no one who does a miracle in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil about me. Whoever is not against us is for us. Amen I tell you: Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name, because you belong to Christ, will certainly not lose his reward. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to fall into sin, it would be better for him if he were thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around his neck. If your hand causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed, than to have two hands and go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your foot causes you to fall into sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ If your eye causes you to fall into sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good. But if the salt loses its flavor, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” (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 #542 - “Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give”

**Dear Lord, to your true servants give
The grace to you alone to live,
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,**

**They go to share your living Word,
The gospel message to proclaim
That all may know your saving name.**

**They gladly go at your command
To spread your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong
To heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
And mighty is your arm to save.**

**When all their labor seems in vain,
Revive their sinking hopes again;
And when success crowns what they do,
Oh, keep them humble, Lord, and true
Until before your judgment seat
They lay their trophies at your feet.**

**The Sermon: Numbers 11:16, 24-29
 "Thank God For One Another"**

I'd like to ask you a very serious question this morning. What is it that leads married couples to **forget** that their **spouse** is a special gift from **God** - a gift to be **loved** and **cherished**? As you **think** about that question, you probably realize that there could be **many** reasons. There are all kinds of **stresses** and **strains** which occur as we live together day after day - stresses which **often** lead couples to focus on the **negative** things about their spouse - things which **annoy** them or **anger** them. That phenomenon which all too often occurs in **marriage**, can also be found among fellow **Christians** in our **congregations**. All too quickly, we focus on the **negative** things we see in the other members, and we **lose sight** of the great **blessings** which God has given to us in **one another**. Today we're going to see that phenomenon taking place among God's Old Testament people, and as we do, we're reminded to **Thank God For One Another**, and for the great variety of **gifts** which He has given **in** each of us, and **to** each of us.

The text we have before us today takes place shortly after the Israelites had set out from Mt. **Sinai**, where they had received the **10 Commandments** from God. They were beginning what **should** have been the **final** stage of their journey to the Promised Land, but **sadly**, instead of being filled with **joy** and **anticipation** as they headed toward Canaan, the people were filled with **grumbling** and

complaining. The **specific** complaint which serves as a background for our text today had to do with their **food**. The LORD had miraculously supplied His people with **manna** from **heaven** every day. But that wasn't **good** enough. They wanted **meat** and more **variety** like they had back in their days of **slavery** in Egypt. Their constant **complaining** was more than their leader, Moses, could **bear**. So in His mercy, the LORD **provided** for Moses. He told him that He would give him **helpers** so he wouldn't have to carry the burden of leadership all by **himself**. So we read at the beginning of our text that God said to Moses, "*Gather **seventy men** from the elders of Israel for me, men whom you know to be **elders** and **officers** for the people. Take them to the Tent of Meeting and make them stand there **with you**.*"

Moses **did** what the LORD commanded. He brought the elders to the Tent of Meeting, and then we're told, "*The **LORD** came down in the cloud and **spoke** to him. He took from the Spirit that was on **Moses** and put it on the **seventy elders**. When the Spirit **rested** on them, they **prophesied**, but they did **not** do it again*" Now for some reason, **two** of the elders, Eldad and Medad, didn't **make** it to the meeting. They remained in the **camp**. But that didn't stop the **LORD** from giving **them** the **same** outpouring of His Spirit which He had given to the **other** elders at the Tent of Meeting. Now, it seems like this would have been a **good** thing. But it **didn't** look that way to some of the **Israelites**. We're told that a young man ran up to Moses with the **report** that Eldad and Medad were **prophesying** in the camp, as though it was some kind of a **scandal**. Even **Joshua**, the **future** leader of God's people, **condemned** Eldad and Medad, saying, "*My lord Moses, **stop** them!*" But the question is, **why**? **Why** were some of the people so **upset** with Eldad and Medad? Why did they jump to the **conclusion** that these men were doing something **wrong**, when they were actually just using a **gift** which had been given to them by the **LORD**?

It's sad but this kind of misunderstanding isn't at all uncommon among God's people even **today**. We are part of a **congregation**. That congregation is part of a **Synod**. Our Synod is now made up of less than **400,000** people. But as small as we **are**, that's still **a lot** of people. And simply put, there isn't **one person** who is capable of **leading** them **all alone** - not even President **Schroeder**. And so there are many people who **help** in carrying out the ministry of our Synod. On the **local** level, these helpers gather in congregations. We need **many people** in order to carry out the **work** which the LORD has given us to do, and with the **blessing** of the **LORD**, those people are **provided**, and the work gets **done**. However, not **everyone** sees it that way, and unfortunately, that can turn **blessings** into **problems**.

Our sinful nature doesn't want us to **Thank God For One Another**. All too often our sinful nature wants us to be **jealous** of others. It wants us to find something **wrong** with the **work** that others are doing. It wants us to look **down** on them, and think that **we** could do a **better** job than **they** can. It can happen on a **large** scale when the work that's being done by others in our **Synod** is called into question. It can also happen between neighboring **congregations**. We live in an area where we're **blessed** to have **multiple** WELS congregations. But that **blessing** sometimes provides the **temptation** to look at the work which the **other** congregations are doing, and to see it as being **inferior** or maybe even **wrong** because it's not the way **we** do things. That kind of attitude is not only **ridiculous**, it's actually **sinful**. We **need** to work **together**. In fact as time goes on, it's becoming more and more important for neighboring congregations to work together even **more** to carry out the LORD's work among us.

And that same **jealous** attitude which shows itself in **congregations** also shows itself as we deal with one another as **individuals**. The 8th commandment tells us to take other people's words and actions in the **kindest** possible way. But how many times don't we think the **worst** of what someone else says or does, because it's not in line with **our** way of thinking? It's bad enough when Christians face persecution from the **unbelieving** world **around** us, but when Christians face persecution from **one another**, that's a tool which the **Devil** is using, to try to drive us **apart** - and we can't let that **happen**.

We **all** need to check our attitudes in regard to how we look at **each other**, and how we view the **ministry** which is being carried out by **us**, and by our **brothers and sisters** in the faith. Let's take a look again at how **Moses** reacted when Joshua told him he needed to **stop** Eldad and Medad from prophesying. Moses said, "*Are you **jealous** for **my** sake? If only **all** of the LORD's people were prophets so that the Lord would put **his Spirit** on them!*" Moses wasn't **upset** with Eldad and Medad because they had missed the **meeting** or because they were **prophesying**. Instead, he was **happy** to know that **wherever** they were, they were doing the work which the **LORD** wanted them to do. Moses understood that these **men** were **gifts** from God, and that they had been **given** a gift from God, and he was **thankful** that they were **using** it. Moses knew that the LORD had given this gift to Eldad and Medad, and to all the **other** elders as well, so they would be able to **help** him in his service to God - **not** to **hinder** him.

It would be well for **us** to think that way too - especially when we're tempted to **tear down** someone **else** in the Church. We need to remember just what it means to be **members** of the **Church**, and I'm **not** talking about having a

mailbox in the back, or having our name and our picture in the new church directory. Being a member of the **Church** means that we confess our faith in **Jesus** as our **Savior** from sin. It means that we recognize that our only hope for **salvation** comes from our gracious **God**, who sent His one and only **Son** to die on the **cross** for us. So, when we look at the **other** members of our congregation, we need to recognize that **they** believe and confess the **same thing**. We are all **sinner**s who would be completely **lost** without our Savior. **Jesus** is the one who gives our lives **value**, and because we are now a part of **His body**, we need to **work together** with all the **other** parts of His body - with all the people who share our **faith** in **Jesus** **wherever** they're found. And we need to **appreciate** what a **joy** and **blessing** it is to **share** in that fellowship.

We all **need** one another, because even though we share a **common faith**, we have all been blessed with **different talents** and **abilities**. By God's design, each one of us is **unique**. So when someone else uses a gift which **they** have - and it **isn't** one that **we** possess - that's **not** a reason to be **jealous**. Instead, it's a reason to **thank God**. It's a **wonderful** thing when God's people **use** their various **gifts** to work toward the **same goal** - the goal of spreading the Gospel of **Jesus** throughout the world. **Thank God For One Another**. Whether we say that **out loud** or **not**, those words should certainly be in our **hearts** every time we speak to a fellow **Christian**. Husbands and wives, think about how some of our conversations might **change** if we started out by telling our spouse, "I **thank God** for bringing you into my life." Fellow members of **Trinity**, as we work together for the sake of the **Gospel**, don't be **jealous** of one another, but rather tell one another, "I **thank God** that you are using your gifts to further God's kingdom." Each and every one of us is **important**, because we have all received **gifts** from God - gifts which need to be **used** for the benefit of His Church.

That **doesn't** mean that there will never be honest, constructive **criticism** or loving **admonition** among us. But it **does** mean that we must never lose sight of who has brought us **together** in the **first** place - our **God** - a God who knew from the very **beginning** that we couldn't **save** ourselves - a God who knew that our salvation depended on **Him alone** - a God who **loved** us so much that He sent His only **Son** to **die** for us. And now we are **privileged** to **thank** Him for His love. As we work **together** to further God's kingdom, let's always **Thank God For One Another** as brothers and sisters in **Christ**, and for all the **gifts** which He has given for us to **use** as we **share Jesus** with the world. Amen.

Prayers:

O God in heaven - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - we thank You for the precious Christian **fellowship** which we are now enjoying in Your name. We thank You for the privilege of **worshipping** You, the true and only God, and for the privilege of **hearing Your Word**, by which we grow in faith toward a better understanding of Your love. Give us all a sincere longing to **assemble** here in Your name **every week**, to worship You, and to be edified by the preaching and teaching of Your Word.

Heavenly Father, as we look at the week which has just ended, we must confess that we haven't always **obeyed** Your Word and commandments, nor have we sought to **follow** the perfect example of our Lord Jesus Christ. We haven't always **done** the things we have promised. How often we have **sinned**, and deserve only Your **wrath**. But we ask You to **forgive** our sins for the sake of Your **Son**, whom You sent to die on the cross for us.

Dear Jesus, help us cling to You forever in true **faith** as our Savior and Lord, who **loved** us and **redeemed** us from our sins with Your own precious **blood**. Through Your Holy Word, **increase** our faith, and **deepen** our appreciation for Your sacrifice on Calvary's cross. May our lives more and more **reflect** Your love. **Guide** us and our loved ones on our way through life, and **guard** and **defend** us from every evil.

Holy Spirit, open our **hearts** to the Word of truth spoken here today. Fill our hearts with **joy** - the joy which You alone can give us. Give to all of us who worship here, the grace to **praise** our God continually with our whole lives, by pursuing **only** those matters, and desiring **only** those things which are **righteous** and **good**. Grant us the gifts of **patience**, **kindness**, and **gentleness**; that we may help our families and neighbors, and that we may be forgiving and honest with **all** people. May our voices, lifted together in this worship service, serve not only to **glorify You**, our God, but also to **comfort** and **strengthen** one another. 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 #458 - "May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

**May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above,
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all your children, and obey
The law of Christian love.**

**So may we join your name to bless,
Your grace adore, your pow'r confess,
To flee from sin and strife.
One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same:
A glorious crown of life.**

**Spirit of life, of love, and peace,
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Your gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live,
In joyful hope to die.**

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 #471 - *“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.**

**Destroy in me the lust of sin;
From all impureness make me clean.
Oh, grant me pow’r and strength, my God,
To strive against my flesh and blood.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Oh, let your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.**