

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 17 - September 19, 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 #443 - *“Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”*

**Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing;
A cheerful trust maintain,
For God, the source of ev’rything,
Your treasure shall remain.**

**Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.**

**Did not his love and truth and pow’r
Guard ev’ry childhood day?
And did he not in threat’ning hour
Turn dreaded ills away?**

**He always will with patience chide;
His rod falls gently down,
And all your sins he casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.**

**His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes;
All that his counsels did ordain
A happy ending makes.**

**Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust his guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav’n above.**

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 50:4-10

The Lord God gave me a tongue like the learned, an instructed tongue, so I know how to sustain the weary with a word. He wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. The Lord God opened my ear, and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back. I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit. The Lord God will help me, so I will not be disgraced. Therefore I have made my face hard like flint. I know that I will not be put to shame. The one who will acquit me is near! Who can accuse me? Let us take our stand. Who can pass judgment on me? Let him approach me. Look, the Lord God will help me. Who then can declare me guilty? Look, all of them will wear out like a garment. A moth will consume them. Who among you worships the Lord and listens to the voice of his servant? Anyone who walks in darkness and who has no bright light - let him trust in the name of the Lord, and let him lean on his God. (EHV)

Psalm 116

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**I love the LORD, for he 'heard my voice;
He heard my cry for 'mercy.**

**Because he turned his 'ear to me,
I will call on him as long 'as I live.**

**The LORD is gracious and 'righteous;
When I was in great need, he 'saved me.**

Refrain: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**For you, O LORD, have delivered my 'soul from death,
My eyes from tears, my feet from 'stumbling.**

**How can I re'pay the LORD
For all his good'ness to me?**

**I will lift up the cup of sal'vation
And call on the name 'of the LORD.**

**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: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Lesson: James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18

My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. For example, suppose a man enters your worship assembly wearing gold rings and fine clothing, and a poor man also enters wearing filthy clothing. If you look with favor on the man wearing fine clothing and say, "Sit here in this good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there" or "Sit down here at my feet," have you not made a distinction among yourselves and become judges with evil opinions? Listen, my dear brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom, which he promised to those who love him? However, if you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, since you are convicted by this law as transgressors. In fact, whoever keeps the whole law but stumbles in one point has become guilty of breaking all of it. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says that he has faith but has no works? Such "faith" cannot save him, can it? If a

brother or sister needs clothes and lacks daily food and one of you tells them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but does not give them what their body needs, what good is it? So also, such “faith,” if it is alone and has no works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus went away with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They told him, “John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say one of the prophets.” “But who do you say I am?” he asked them. Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men.” He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. (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 #427 - *"We Are the LORD's"*

**We are the Lord's; his all-sufficient merit,
Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.
We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit;
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.**

**We are the Lord's; then let us gladly tender
Our souls to him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.**

**We are the Lord's; no darkness brooding o'er us
Can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us -
Faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.**

**We are the Lord's; no evil can befall us
In the dread hour of life's fast loos'ning cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord's.**

**The Sermon: Isaiah 50:4-10
 "Our Help Comes From The LORD"**

Help is something which is rather **elusive**. If you really needed **help** for something, to whom would you **turn**? The answer to that **probably** depends on how you **picture** help, or on what **kind** of help you need. If you think of help as being something **positive** and **useful**, you might turn to someone who is considered to be an **expert** - someone who would have the **answers** to your particular **problem**. But, if you view help as being something **harmful** or **negative**, you might not even **ask** for help at all. **Many** people are like that. They think that there must be something **wrong** with them if they have to ask for **help**. They might even quote, as a Bible passage, "**God** helps those who help **themselves**" - even though those **words**, and that kind of **attitude**, aren't in the Bible **at all**. In fact, God's message is just the **opposite**. **God** helps those who **can't** help themselves.

And it's a good thing too, because that's exactly what we **are** - people who **can't** help ourselves - people who would be lost **eternally** without the help of our God. Most often, that help comes **directly** in the person of our **Savior**, Jesus; and

our example in today's **text** is no different. As the chosen Servant of the LORD, **Jesus** brings **help** - help for **us**, bringing us eternal **salvation**, but which resulted in **death** on the cross for **Him**. Through the Prophet Isaiah, Jesus tells us that **Our Help Comes From The LORD**. He helps us to **listen** attentively, and He helps us to **bear persecution** patiently.

The Bible gives us **many** examples of people who had a hard time **listening** to what the LORD **said** to them. Let's start by taking a look at **Moses**. For 80 years Moses had **wanted** to be the **leader** of God's people. But for the first 80 years of his life **God** had said, "**No. Not yet.**" And then, when God finally said that it was **time** for Moses to take that leadership role Moses replied, "*Please, Lord, I have never been **eloquent**, either in the **past** or more **recently** or even since you started **speaking** to your servant, for my mouth and tongue are **slow** and **clumsy** ... Please, Lord, send **someone else.**" So, the LORD **told** him what to say, and even provided his brother, **Aaron**, to be the **spokesman** for Moses. Then there was **Jeremiah**. God had chosen **him** to be a prophet too, but Jeremiah said, "*Ah, Lord God! I really do not know **how** to **speak**! I am only a **child**!" But, God told him, "*I have now placed **my** words in your mouth. Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to **uproot** and to **tear down**, to **destroy** and to **overthrow**, to **build** and to **plant.**" God gave him all the **wisdom** and the **courage** he needed to **listen** to His Word and to **follow** His will. **Our Help also Comes From The LORD**, but we need to be listening alertly, attentively, and obediently, or we run the risk of **missing out** on what the LORD is saying to us.***

There's great **value** in learning the art of **listening**, and it only requires **two things** from us. One is that we are **alert**, and the other is that we are **attentive**. Webster describes **alertness** as the state of being **watchful**, **active**, and ready to do **battle**. So that would mean that alert **listening** is being mentally prepared **ahead** of time for something which is about to be **said**. It's coming with an **open mind**, expecting to hear something **important**.

Quite often we fall far **short** of that. For example, how **alert** are we when our **husband** or **wife** has something to say to us? Are our minds prepared to **hear** their words, or are we so **preoccupied** with something **else** that their words just sound like **background noise**? And how **alert** are we when it comes to listening to our **children** or **grandchildren**? Do we give them our **full attention**, or are we too caught up in our own **personal** interests to actually **listen** to what they have to say? And for **all** of us, as students of God's Word, did we come here today expecting to hear something **worthwhile** in our worship service, or are we just being **seat-warmers**? It's so **important** for us **especially** to listen to **God** - to take

advantage of the many opportunities we are given to **hear** and **study** His Word in **worship** and **Bible classes**. God says that when we put Him **first**, He will take care of all our **other** needs - both **physical** and **spiritual**. So when our lives are falling apart, and the world is collapsing all around us, let's be sure we're **listening** to God's Word, and **following** it in our daily lives. If we have **prepared** ourselves to be **alert** listeners, then we will **also** be **attentive** listeners, and we won't miss out on **any** of the important words spoken by our **family** members, our **friends**, or our **God**.

Listen again to what Jesus said, "*The LORD) wakes me up morning by morning. He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the learned. The LORD God opened my ear; and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back.*" Notice that the entire **listening process** begins with the **daily care** which is provided by the LORD. He wakes us up to **listen** every morning. And He tells us that the person who **listens** is **learned** (or **wise**). It's only **after** we have **listened** that we'll also be able to **speak** with wisdom. That's the way it was with Jesus' chosen **twelve**. They were **disciples** - **students** - **followers** who needed to **listen** and **learn**. They sat at the feet of the Savior for **three years**, and only **then** did Jesus send them out to **preach** and **teach**. Listening is **important** - especially listening to the **LORD** and His **Word**.

But these words which Isaiah recorded for us are actually the words of our **Savior**, and Jesus serves as a **perfect example** when it comes to being an **alert** and **attentive** listener. He said about **Himself**, "*The LORD God opened my ear; and I myself was not rebellious. I did not turn back.*" Turn back from **what**? Jesus goes on to say, "*I submitted my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard. I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.*" Jesus shows us here that **He** is in **control**. Even as He was confronted with the most **contemptible** and **disrespectful** of actions, Jesus was able to **endure** them all, and He was **willing** to endure all kinds of **disdain** and **abuse** - the spitting, the mocking, the whipping, and the taunting - Jesus was willing to endure **all** this, and even **more** - including offering His perfect life as a **sacrifice** on the cross - in order to **save us**. Jesus was willing to endure **all** of these horrors, because they were all a part of the heavenly Father's **plan**. Jesus **listened attentively** to that plan, and He perfectly **obeyed** His Father's will.

I think it's also important to point out the **attitude** of Jesus throughout all of this **persecution**. Our text says, "*The LORD God will help me, so I will not be disgraced ... I know that I will not be put to shame. The one who will acquit me is near ... The LORD God will help me.*" Jesus was totally **confident** that no matter

what was thrown at Him, **Help** would **Come From The LORD**. And that **confidence** enabled Jesus to **offer** His **back**, and His **cheeks**, and His **beard**, and His **face** to His persecutors. That **confidence** enabled Him to make His face **hard like flint** - to **grit** His teeth - to be **totally determined** to carry out the heavenly Father's plan of salvation - no matter what level of **persecution** He would have to suffer.

That same **strength** and **confidence** to be able to bear **persecution**, is also **ours**. At one time or another persecution comes to **all** of us, and it's only by imitating the attitude of **Jesus** that we can expect to be successful in **patiently bearing** persecution. We need to **attentively listen** to God's Word. When we think that we're at our wits **end**, we can still **endure**, because **Our Help Comes From The LORD**. God **has not** and **will not** leave us to fend for **ourselves** against our mortal enemies. He has already taken care of our **greatest need**, by providing us with full and free **forgiveness** for all of our sins, so He certainly won't desert us in any of our **other** needs either. As the Apostle Paul told the Romans, *"He who did not spare his own **Son**, but gave him up for us all - how will he not **also** graciously give us **all things** along with him?"* Trusting in **Jesus**, our Savior, we have **everything** we need, no matter **what** the circumstances.

Our Help Comes From The LORD - the LORD who **made** heaven and earth - the LORD who **conquered** sin, death, and the forces of Satan himself. Our God has **no equal**, so we will always be **safe** in His protective care. May the LORD always help us to **listen** - to **listen attentively** to His Word, and to **patiently endure** the persecutions which come from this evil world. Amen.

Prayers:

Heavenly Father, who has **justified** fallen mankind through the suffering and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and has **declared** the same by raising Him from the dead, we praise You for Your **grace** and **mercy**. We could never justify **ourselves** in Your sight. No matter how much we **try**, we are still **sinners**. Even our **righteous** deeds are **filthy rags** in Your sight, **tainted** by our many sins. Yet, we come with **boldness** before You, because we trust in Your **Son**, knowing that through **Him** there is complete forgiveness for **everyone**.

Dear Jesus, we know and confess that You are the **Christ**, the Son of the living **God**. By **humbling** Yourself and becoming obedient to **death** for our sins, You have **rescued** lost sinners like us from certain **destruction**, and have provided us with a robe of **righteousness** cleansed in Your **blood**. **Comfort** us, and give us

that surpassing **peace**, which comes from knowing that we are **justified** and **saved** by You.

Spirit of truth, we bless Your holy name because You have **awakened** our hearts to receive Christ **personally** through **faith**, so that You might make forgiveness and eternal life **ours** as individuals. **Continue** to fill us with Your grace. Keep us **steadfast** and **true** in our trust. Enable us to bring forth the **fruits** of salvation - **good works** - to the glory of our **Savior**. 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 #421 - "All Depends on Our Possessing"

**All depends on our possessing
God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart.
They who trust with faith unshaken
In their God are not forsaken
And e'er keep a dauntless heart.**

**He who to this day has fed me
And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine.
He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me,
Will remain my help divine.**

**Many spend their lives in fretting
Over trifles and in getting**

**Things that have no solid ground.
I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure
And that now is seldom found.**

**Well he knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day.
I shall doubt his wisdom never -
As God wills, so be it ever -
I to him commit my way.**

**If on earth my days he lengthen,
He my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in him I place.
Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding;
Safe I anchor in his grace.**

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 #476 - "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tower;
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy.
Thee will I love with all my power,
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy.
Thee will I love, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**

**Thee will I love, my life, my Savior,
Who art my best and truest friend.
Thee will I love and praise forever,
For never shall thy kindness end.
Thee will I love with all my heart -
Thou my Redeemer art!**

**Oh, keep me watchful, then, and humble;
Do not allow my steps to stray.
Uphold me when my feet would stumble,
And keep me on the narrow way.
Fill all my nature with thy light,
O Radiance strong and bright!**

**Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
Amid the darkest depths of sadness,
And not for hope of high reward,
For thine own sake, O Light divine,
So long as life is mine.**