

St. Matthew Lutheran Church North Tonawanda, NY

September 26th, 2021
18th Sunday in Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

God's grace is always abundant; it goes beyond the limits we might set. When seventy elders are supposed to report to Moses to help him, two remain in the camp. But the Spirit rests on them! In the Gospel, the disciples following Jesus on the way to Jerusalem complain. A non-disciple is able to cast out demons in His name! And Jesus tells them not to stop him. His grace even includes us despite our inability to do His will. Confident of our Lord's return, the Epistle urges us to serve one another, healing, praying, cheering up, confessing, and forgiving. Jesus says we are as valuable as salt for one another, preserving our relationship to Him. "Have salt in yourselves," He says, "and be at peace with one another."

TLH 39 Praise to the Lord Almighty

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to Him,

for I rejoice in the LORD.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We enjoy singing praises to God, but we truly need Him to look down on us in mercy. So often we fail to follow the directives for Christian living, which we will read about in today's Epistle. So James urges, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." Let us ask God for grace and mercy.

Silence for reflection.

James writes, "Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord. . . . Do not grumble against one another, brothers. . . . Let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no. . . . Is anyone among you sick? . . . Pray over him."

We confess our impatience, our lack of love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our words that do not always reflect the love You have for us. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Heavenly Father, our only hope is in Your grace and mercy. Forgive us for Jesus' sake.

God has cured our sickness of sin by sending His Son to die in our place. He values us and calms our fears, saying, "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.
Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD,

give praise, O servants of the LORD,
who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God!
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing to his name, for it is pleasant!
Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.
For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.***

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For peace from God and peace among our brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

For peace among all who seek to serve Christ and support His Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

For this holy house and for all who gather here to be strengthened in faith and encouraged in service, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on High,

***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great
glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-***

begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, source of every blessing, mercifully direct and govern us by Your Holy Spirit that we may complete the works You have prepared for us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29*

⁴Now the rabble that was among [the children of Israel] had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat!"
⁵We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. ⁶But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." ¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?" ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that you swore to give their fathers? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness."

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you..."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. ²⁶Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *James 5:13–20*

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. ¹⁹My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia. Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *Mark 9:38–50*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁸John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰For the one who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. ⁴²"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (Rear cover of Maroon Hymnal)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth....**

TLH 354 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Sermon

Offertory

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.***

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Christian Church and for all people in their various needs. For the Church here and around the world, witnessing to the good news in Christ, that we see the worth within one another, the value our heavenly Father places on us, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and grant that nothing separate us from You and Your love for us in Christ.

For those who do not know Christ but support the work of the Church to meet people's physical, social, and spiritual needs, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and bless them according to Your abundant grace.

For people who serve in positions of governmental authority among the nations, for those who raise crops and tend herds, and for all who connect resources with the needs of their fellow citizens, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and give them joy in serving.

For all who struggle to put bread on the table and a roof over their families, those who face injustice and discrimination, and all who are denied human rights, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and give us hearts to help those in need.

For all near and dear to us who call out to God in their distress, [*including . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and bring about healing, comfort, and relief as fits Your gracious plans for them.

For ourselves, that we recognize the gifts God has placed among us by which we may care for one another and our community, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy, and give us guidance and strength to serve in Your name.

Grant us, heavenly Father, that what we ask for in faith we may obtain through Your unfailing mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

TLH 54 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah