

October 16, 2022

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Standing in the Need of Prayer

"There are no atheists in foxholes," the adage goes. The meaning is simple: in dire enough circumstances, anyone will resort to prayer. Jesus told his disciples a parable, however, to teach them "about their need to pray always and not to lose heart."

Most of us will naturally turn to prayer when times are tough--when we learn that we or a loved one has a serious illness, when we cannot find our way out of a painful or puzzling situation, when natural disaster or human-made catastrophe strikes. Jesus' parable teaches us that it is good to pray in such times; we ought to be like the pestering widow who wore down the judge with her demands for justice.

The parable points to an even more important truth, however. We are *able* to "pray always" because God loves us and will care for us. If even a wretched man, one who "neither feared God nor had respect for people" would grant justice to a petitioner, how much more will our creator God respond to our needs?

When we pray--whether regularly, as part of daily devotions; "on the fly," as we go about our usual chores; sporadically, as a friend or loved one comes to mind; or in the company of other Christians at worship--God will hear our prayer and grant justice to us, the chosen ones.

We *can* pray with absolute confidence in God's goodness, justice, and mercy. We also *need* to pray--always. We cannot depend only on ourselves or rely on human resources. Rather, we turn to our loving God, who sent Jesus to heal a broken world.

First St. John Lutheran Church

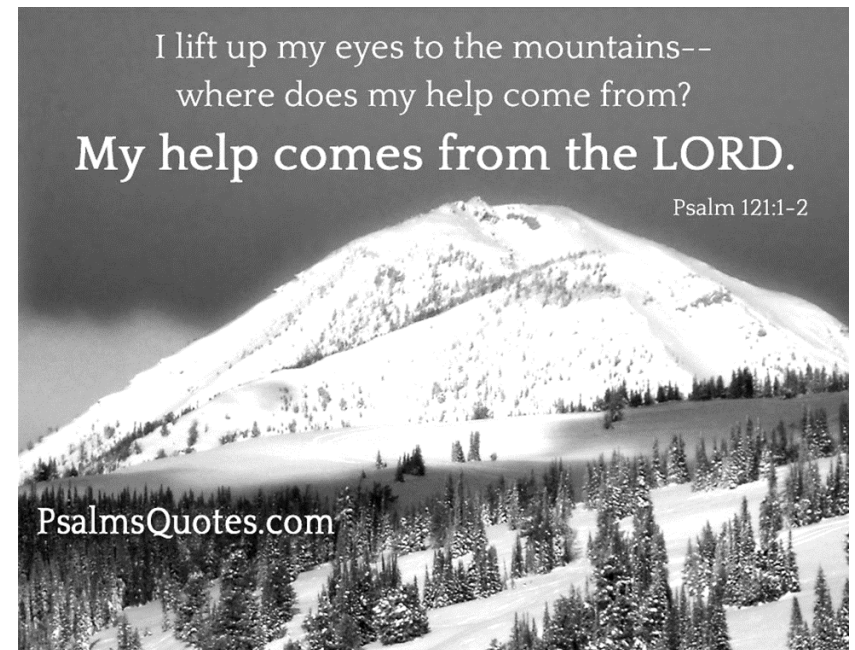
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

October 16, 2022 - 10:30 am

October 16, 2022 **19th Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"This is My Father's World"* No. 824

Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

READER

Laura Scherer

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Pastor Rayl
No. 742

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

No. 414

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Babylonian exiles blamed their captivity on their ancestors who had broken the covenant established at Mount Sinai. But the prophet envisions a day when the people can no longer make such a complaint, for there will be no need to teach the law. Knowledge of God and of God's laws will be a gift from God, written on the heart.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ **He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Paul continues his instructions to Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 18.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a story reminding his listeners to be persistent in prayer and unceasing in their appeals. If an unethical judge ultimately will grant the plea a persistent widow, how much more will our loving God hear those who call upon him!

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.