Welcome to Faith Lutheran

October 16th 2016



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**Praying through Your Midnight**

Jesus believed in the power of prayer. The gospel stories show him to be prayerful before most of the major decisions of his ministry—like the choosing of his disciples, praying before miracles or healings, or his prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion. His disciples were so impressed with his prayer life that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Out of that request, the Lord’s Prayer has been passed down to us.

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells those who are listening “a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Perhaps this story comes to you at a time when you and your prayer life are going through a time of struggle. Perhaps you are having difficulty hearing from God, which might make you wonder if God is having a hard time hearing you—or from you. Our conversation modes with God can often feel interrupted by our fear, impatience, lost hope, anxiety, or a sense that our time may be running out in a particular situation that we have been praying about but don’t seem to be receiving an answer to. Sometimes we can feel as though we are in a midnight hour with God and our prayer life.

Jesus acknowledges our midnight hours, our crises of faith, and our tendencies to lose hope. They are human tendencies that Jesus in his humanness knows all about. Anyone who can scream from the cross “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34) knows full well what a midnight hour in prayer feels like.

Jesus uses the reverse example of an unjust judge to point to a God of love and justice, and encourages us to keep faith with that God even in the midnight hours of our prayer life.

**Sunday, October 16, 2016**

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Nine

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ’s table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

*If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.*

*The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.*

*If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during*

*any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish*

*to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.*

*Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

**STEWARDSHIP TEMPLE TALK**  Doug Hirt

PRELUDE

*The pre-service music signals the beginning of the worship service. Silence during the*

*pre-service music enables worshipers to prepare for worship through quiet meditation.*

“What a Friend we have in Jesus” Hymn 742 arr. Dale Wood

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Gathering Song**#688

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**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**



**Canticle of Praise**



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**Prayer of the Day**

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.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31**

*Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother’s birthright and his father’s blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to “Israel,” a name that means “he wrestles with God.”*

A reading from Genesis.

22The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” 27So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” 29Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” 31The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5**

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

A reading from 2 Timothy.

14But 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.  
 4:1In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 3For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



**Gospel: Luke 18:1-8**

*Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow’s pleas. Jesus is calling God’s people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Then 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?”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sermon

*The assembly is seated.*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

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Hymn of DAy # 695

*During the singing of this hymn, 2017 pledge cards are brought forward*

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**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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

***We will begin and end this time of prayer with hymn # 752***



**Prayers of Intercession**

Set free by the truth of God’s gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s good creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed.*

*To each petition, the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The presiding minister concludes the*

*prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(We again will sing Hymn #752)*

*The assembly is seated.*

**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering**

I Lift Mine Eyes to the Hills (based on Psalm 121)

***Gwynne Kadrofske and Linda Hirt, Flutes***

*The assembly stands.*

**Offering RESPONSE** Hymn 691, Vs. 1&2

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**Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills

were gathered together to become one bread,

so let your church be gathered together

from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,

for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**  


**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Take hold of the life that really is life.

Come, take your place at the table.

*The assembly is seated.*

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Communion Song**  
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**congregational song #742**

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**congregational song #759**

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*The assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

We come again to you, O God,

giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy

you have embraced us and healed us,

making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,

that we may continue to give you thanks

by embracing others with mercy and healing;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing**

God Almighty send you light and truth

to keep you all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you;

the holy angels accompany you;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song*#774***



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“What a Fellowship,” arr. Matt Hyzer (hymn 774)

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The Lord has invited us here. All are welcome! May you be blessed in your time here this day.



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Secretary Katie Love klove@faithlutheranokemos.org

Director of Christian Education Melinda Schultz

Director of Music Debra Borton-McDonough

Organist/Pianist Bruce Williams

October 9th Attendance:97

Serving Faith Today October 23

Acolyte Sami Ransom Clayton Wenzel

Altar Care Rich Weingartner & Melinda Schultz

Communion Assistants Sami Ransom Clayton Wenzel

Dane Webb Rich Weingartner

David Baker Elaine Harrison

Greeters Bill & Pam Williams Doug & Linda Hirt

Lay Assistants Dane Webb Rich Weingartner

Readers David Baker Elaine Harrison

Ushers Doug & Linda Hirt Doug & Linda Hirt

Nursery Jennifer Coe Heidi Bowers