

The Parable of the Persistent Widow



October 16, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Audio/Video Techs:Justin Brown & Zach Hereza
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
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Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. 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.

PRELUDE

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

(Franz Joseph Haydn)

“I Love to Tell the Story”

(William Fischer)

Faith Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God’s abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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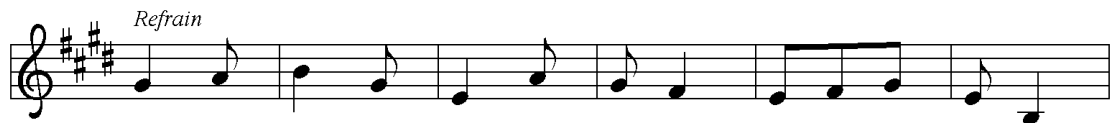
GREETING

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



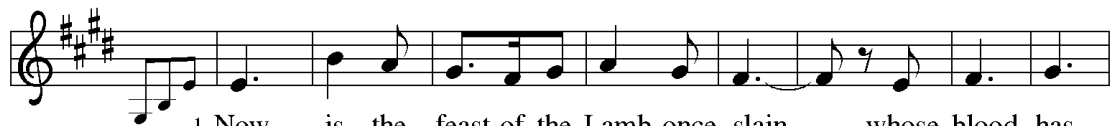
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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.**

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.**

PSALM: Psalm 121

Psalm is read responsively

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,**

the maker of heaven and earth.

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel**

will neither slumber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,**

nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil

and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,**

from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The writer of this letter 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,

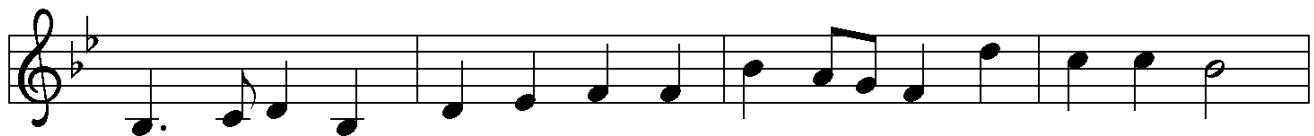
equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In 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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust 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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Woman, Pounding on the Door



1. Wom - an, pound - ing on the door till it
2. Wom - an, shout - ing till she's heard with a
3. Je - sus, with your wit you make her a
4. "Yet the truth is bet - ter still! When you
5. "Chris - tian, there - fore, do not doubt! Come with



swings and o - pens wide— stub - born, she just
voice that grates the ear! What can ev - er
par - a - ble of prayer! "Be per - sis - tent
rap on heav - en's door, God, who sees you
hope - ful heart to pray. Like a par - ent,



will not quit, she will not be locked out - side!
keep her still? Nei - ther threat, nor snub nor sneer!
in your pleas! God will hear, and God will care!"
on your way, nev - er will your knock ig - nore!"
lov - ing, good, God will turn no child a - way!"

Text: Luke 18:1-8; Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 2001; © 2013, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS; Pierre de Corbiel, d.1222

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

“Offertory”

(John Ness Beck)

Bob Nelson, soloist

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

Amen.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Pastorale”

J.S.Bach

Please stand if you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“March in F Major”

Alexandre Guilmant

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Altar Care: Rich Weingartner
Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach
Nursery: Connie Nelson
Coffee Hour: Nelson

Reader: Elaine Harrison
Ushers: Doug & Linda Hirt
Greeter: Doug & Linda Hirt
Acolyte: Open

Year to Date

January 1- August 30th, 2022

Income	\$207,320.00
Expenses	<u>\$215,821.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (8,501.00)

9/25/2022

N/A

10/2/2022

N/A

10/9

N/A

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, October 16	6:30 P.M.	Youth Group to Haunted House
Monday, October 17	7:00 P.M.	Church Council Meeting
Saturday, October 22	9:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.	Synod Disability Learning Day: Portage, MI
Monday, October 24	7:00 P.M.	Green Team Meeting
Sunday, October 30	11:00 A.M.	Quarterly Meeting
Sunday, October 30	11:30 A.M.	Soup/Bread Luncheon/Activity Time
Wednesday, November 2	6:00 P.M.	Middle School Youth Activity Night
November 4-6 th		Middle School Charge Retreat
Sunday, November 6	11:00 A.M.	Fall Property Clean Up
Tuesday, November 8	all day	Voting Precinct at Faith
Sunday, November 13	10:00 A.M.	Pledge Sunday Festivities
Monday, November 21	7:00 P.M.	Church Council Meeting
Saturday, November 26		Decorating Church for Christmas
Wednesday, December 7	6:00 P.M.	Middle School Youth Activity Night
Sunday, December 11	10:00 A.M.	Christmas Pageant
Monday, December 19	7:00 P.M.	Church Council Meeting
Saturday, December 24	Time TBD	Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 25		No In-Person Worship

Recurring Events

Children's Sunday School	Each Sunday at 9:00 A.M.
Adult Sunday School	Each Sunday at 9:00 A.M.
Worship	Each Sunday at 10:00 A.M.
Noon Bible Study	Each Tuesday at Noon
LWR ACTION and Quilters	Each Wednesday 9:30-11:30 A.M.
Confirmation Class	Each Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Each Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.
Bell Choir Rehearsal	Each Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. (check with Deb for dates bells are not meeting)



Intergenerational Halloween Activity/Luncheon

When: Sunday, Oct 30, 2022, following the Quarterly Meeting

Where: In the Fellowship Hall at Faith

What: Potluck Soup/Bread Lunch, pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkins), pumpkin painting (provided), Halloween cooking decorating, craft projects and games.

To Bring: Please bring your own pumpkins if you want to carve them and Soup or Bread to share.

A signup sheet will be available in the Narthex so that we know approximately how many people to expect!

Hope to see you there.



Join us on Sunday, November 13, for Stewardship Sunday festivities!

Stewardship Sunday is the day we turn in our Pledge Cards. We drop them in the offering plate during morning worship. As we mark this day, we will also:

1. Hear a five-minute sermon in worship
2. Be gifted with a delightful presentation following worship, given by Rich & Linda Triemer
3. Enjoy a potluck dinner following this presentation, in which you will have time to view the Ministry Fair Displays that will be set up in the Fellowship Hall

Plan to be present and join us for this special day!