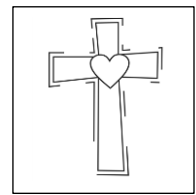


Perley Lutheran Parish
September 27th, 2020
Lectionary 26



Welcome and Announcements

- Joint Councils have met to determine our return to in-person services
- October Newsletter and Plan have been mailed out – watch for them
- Continue to send in your offerings if you are unable to attend and keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to attend or watch!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgement on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of +Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 25:1-9 (Read Responsively)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.** Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.** Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.** Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way.** He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to

Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:23-32, **Glory to you O Lord**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

A sponge, a hand towel, and a glove.

Do you like riddles? I have some riddles to ask you this morning. They aren't too difficult, but you will have to think a little. I will tell you this, I have the answer to each and every riddle right here in my bag -- and it will be something you have all seen before.

Here is the first riddle. What holds water even though it is full of holes? If you think you know, raise your hand. I have the answer right here in my bag. It is a sponge!

I have another riddle for you. What gets wet when it is drying? Surely someone will guess this one. It is a towel!

I have one more riddle. Now listen very closely. When I am filled, I can work or play; when I am empty, I do nothing all day. What am I? That's a hard one, isn't it? It's a glove. With your hand inside, it can do many things, but when it is empty, it can do nothing.

I think Jesus must have liked riddles too. Sometimes he used a riddle to teach people a lesson. One day Jesus was teaching in the temple. The priests and elders of the temple didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God and they were upset because he had been performing miracles.

"Who gave you the authority to do these things?" they asked Jesus.

Jesus said, "I will ask you a question and, if you can answer me, then I will answer you. Here's my question. Did the baptism of John come from heaven or from men? Where did he get his authority?"

The priests couldn't answer Jesus' riddle. If they said it was from heaven, Jesus might ask them why they didn't believe John when he said that Jesus was the son of God. And if they said it was from men, the people would turn against them because they believed that John was a prophet of God.

The only way they could answer was, "We don't know."

Well, maybe the priests and elders didn't know who gave Jesus the authority to perform miracles, but we do. It was God, his Heavenly Father!

Message

We have another parable today – this parable is called the Parable of the Two Sons. Like many times, these siblings were very different from each other. Not so different than what we see of people in our lives. We all know the different types; there are people that are very dependable and there are those that are not. There are people who are givers and there are those that are takers. We know those who can't keep a secret if their life depended on it and others who would take the secret to the grave. People are very different and that includes siblings too. My brothers and I grew up in the same house but we sure see things differently at times and do things in our own way as well. I joke sometimes that I wonder if we really did grow up together. These brothers in our story are as different as night and day.

We need to take a moment to put this story into context. We are hearing this story on the Monday of Holy Week – the last week of Jesus' life here with us. We've already heard the shouts of Hosanna when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the donkey by this time. We've seen the palms waving the day before this story and we've heard the calls of "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Jesus has entered into the temple and immediately calls out the priests and the scribes. They want to know by what authority Jesus thinks he can do what he has done in THEIR temple?? Let me read to you the verses that are part of Matthew 21 just prior to this morning's gospel,

Then Jesus entered the temple^{lc} and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It is written,

*'My house shall be called a house of prayer';
but you are making it a den of robbers.'*

Jesus is being questioned by those in the temple wondering who he thinks he is that he can come into their temple and cause such a ruckus and question how things are done. Sure their temple was corrupt. Of course those in charge want to be sure that things continue as they always have so it's not surprising then that they are not impressed with what Jesus did or said. Therefore, their question to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" is actually a pretty loaded question. No matter how Jesus answers it – it would clearly not be an adequate authority that has given him permission to cause such destruction in their temple and in their way of doing business.

Jesus questions them right back, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" Again, another loaded question. The leaders are stuck with how THEY answer as well. One answer is going to show them as hypocrites and the other answer is going to make themselves look really bad in the eyes of all those watching. So what do they do – they don't answer at all. Jesus takes this opportunity then to tell us the story of the two sons.

Now let's be truthful – we can all identify with both of these sons in our story at times in our life. We have either been like the sons – or daughters – in our story or we have raised sons – or daughters who have acted similar to them. I don't know how many times we had these types of conversations in my house when my children were growing up regarding cleaning of bedrooms, or taking out of the garbage, or folding the clothes, or mowing the lawn, or sorting socks or..... Right?? We know how this request for help can work.

This father goes to the first of his sons and asks him to go work in the vineyard and his response to the request is “No”. No, I'm not going to go work as you have asked. With that response ringing in the father's ear he heads off to the second of his sons and asks of him the same thing – go work in the vineyard – and this time the father receives the response of “Oh, sure! I'll do that right away.” Well, what really happened is the first son – thinking about his love for his father does actually head to vineyard to do as his father has requested. The second son, who said yes he would go, actually never does.

Jesus then asks them “which of the two sons did the will of his father?” and the leaders respond that it was the first son. After all, he eventually went out and did the work as the father had requested. What the leaders actually did here - by giving that answer – is that they tipped their own hand to the fact that they are like the second son. They are ones to say “Yes” to God but then never do anything to back that up. You don't see their actions being Godly – no their actions are all about them and the power that they can and do have. And the first son? Well who represents the first son are the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the sinners – those who first rejected God but then responded to God's promise of love and grace and now follow him. So of course this brings us all to the reality of which one of the sons are we??

Where do we fall in these brother's answers and actions? It's so easy for us to get distracted - like the second son – in our own walk with Jesus. We all have demanding lives – with bills we have to pay, and bosses we have to please. We have soccer games, and dance recitals and relationships to nurture and goals to pursue. We have a lot to do! And we attempt to balance it all – manage our time and prioritize what we can in order to keep on top off everything and keep all those balls we are juggling in the air, right?

We can also sadly let those crazy lifestyles make us get too comfortable and content with what's going on. We don't want things to change so when we have all those commitments being met it's not a cart we want to upset or a security we want to mess with. All of this way of thinking leads us to be more like the second son though. We may find ourselves saying “yes” but not following up with the actions we should do. We say we want to grow in our faith, do the work of God and be in relation with the Word and our neighbors but we don't make room in our schedules – in our lives – to make that happen.

We are blessed with having the Holy Spirit in our lives to nudge us and remind us of what's God has asked of us. He wants us to remember that being a disciple is more than just coming to church now and then or dropping a check in the offering plate once in-awhile. It's not about just saying “Yes”, it's about backing up those words and following Jesus wherever he leads us. It's about trusting that God wants the best for us and that being a follower of Christ means that we have to allow ourselves to get out of our comfort zone. Get out of our lives – the day to day schedules and commitments that take over our lives – and allow yourself to be safe in the arms of God. There is struggle, and of course doubt, in being a disciple but you have to trust in the promises that Jesus gave us and take the action that he has asked.

Did the father in our story love one of the sons more than the other? Of course not, even though they didn't necessarily do as he asked, he continued to love them both. We're lucky because that's just what God does for us as well – he loves us regardless of what we do or do not do. His love is greater than anything we say “Yes” to and then don't follow through with. His love doesn't change for us. He promised us through the life and the death and the resurrection of the Son that we are loved by Him. When you have that opportunity

to go into the vineyard to work – what will you say and what will you do? It's up to us to not only say "yes" but also to do the work. Amen!

Hymn of the Day: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,

Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;

Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.

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, 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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people (Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**)

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need

IN all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation. Mend and redeem places that are damaged and polluted, regions that have been desecrated through fire and storm so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our culture and our institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence – especially those conflicts related to best practices and racial disparity. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers and development workers.

Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Lord in your mercy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Doug and Paxley and all of those that we now name in our own hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

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

Meal

After Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, gracious God that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place nourished and forgiven. Amen

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

Sending Hymn: O Master, Let Me Walk with You

O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;

Tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;

Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Dismissal

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday – October 4th – Nora – 9am service. Kirkebo 11am service. Indoor Worship.

Sunday – October 11th – Kirkebo – 9am service. Nora – 11am service. Indoor Worship.

Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com



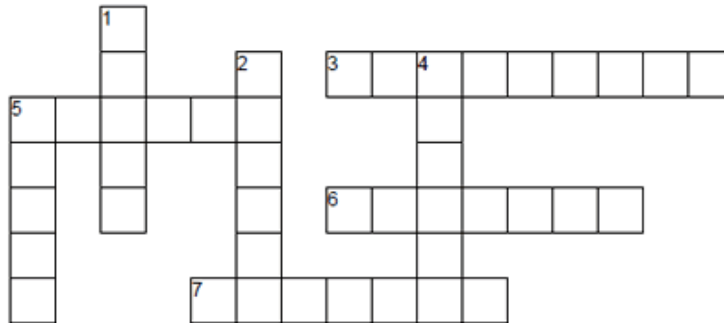
Authority of Jesus Is Questioned

When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?" Matthew 21:23 (NLT)



Complete the activity below.

Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

3. The right to do something
5. The place where God is
6. To cover with water as part of a religious ceremony
7. Someone who speaks a message from God

DOWN

1. To give instruction or direction to others
2. To give a reply to a question
4. A place of worship
5. Having to do with people

HEAVEN	AUTHORITY	BAPTIZE	TEMPLE
TEACH	ANSWER	PROPHET	HUMAN



Secret Message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	26	8	13	22	6	19	24	23	21	5	15	7	16	4	2	12	1	11	17	14	3	10	9	20	18

Use the above key to find out which number matches each letter.

When Jesus went to the temple, what question was he asked by the priests and the elders? Hint: Read Matthew 21:23

"
 26 20 10 24 25 17 25 14 17 24 4 1 23 17 20 25 1 22 20 4 14
 13 4 23 16 19 17 24 22 11 22 17 24 23 16 19 11 ? "
 " 25 11 5 22 13 25 16 13 10 24 4 19 25 3 22 20 4 14
 17 24 23 11 25 14 17 24 4 1 23 17 20 ? "

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The puzzle is based on Matthew 21:23-32

E K Q T E Y U W K A N S W E R
Q E C G N I X W N P M X U I E
U R O D E B W O O X E P Z V G
E U U Y V C I Z W R Z O E S V
S J R H E A V E N I K I P G N
T X T K M M K A B F L E G L S
I P S K D O M C W E O Z O B E
O F R L L S Z Y B F N F Z E Y
N I S O I T E A C H I N G L P
X O Y T P D L C M O G T T D R
Q V P Q O H O K E Q Y V J E I
W A F H M Y E M N O E M W R E
B F G X Z N O T P Y K L K S S
H A F R A I D H T E M P L E T
M U P J K R C O A D Z W R G S

AFRAID
TEMPLE
HEAVEN

PEOPLE
BAPTISM
MEN

QUESTION
KNOW
ELDERS

TEACHING
PRIESTS
ANSWER

PROPHET
BELIEVE
COURTS

Authority of Jesus Is Questioned



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Complete the activity.

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 20-5-1-3-8-9-14-7 _____
- 8-5-1-22-5-14 _____
- 20-5-13-16-12-5 _____
- 1-21-20-8-15-18-9-20-25 _____
- 2-1-16-20-9-26-5 _____
- 2-5-12-9-5-22-5 _____
- 1-14-19-23-5-18 _____
- 17-21-5-19-20-9-15-14 _____

TEACHING	HEAVEN	TEMPLE	AUTHORITY
BAPTIZE	BELIEVE	ANSWER	QUESTION