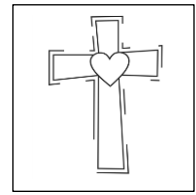


Perley Lutheran Parish
September 6th, 2020
Lectionary 23



Welcome and Announcements

- Next Sunday – Rally Sunday – start of the church year so welcome everyone back – outside at 9am (Kirkebo)
- We continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings. Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to 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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalms 119:33-40 (Read Responsively)

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.** Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. **Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.** Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. **Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.** Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. **See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.**

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the

wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20, **Glory to you O Lord**

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Children’s Message

Look what I have. Do you know what this is? It is a balance scale. It is used to compare things to see which is heavier. If you can get items that weigh exactly the same, the two sides of the scale will be even. Let me show you. (Put a stone in one of the cups and then the other using stones of different sizes.) Are the cups even? No, let's try putting another stone in this cup. Are they even now? No, now this side is too heavy. (Continue for a few minutes making sure that the two sides are never even.) It is really hard to get the two sides even, isn't it?

Has anyone ever said something that hurt your feelings? Sure they have! Perhaps you were playing with a friend and he called you a name. What did that make you want to do? Did it make you want to want to get even by calling your friend a name? Do you know what? That is just like trying to balance these scales -- you never get even! He calls you a name and so you call him a name. He doesn't like that so he calls you another name and on and on the name-calling goes. You never get even!

I have heard people say, "Don't get mad; get even." Think about the balance scale. We saw how hard it is to get even, so here's a better idea, "Don't get even; get ahead." How do you do that? Well, let me explain. In our Bible reading today, Jesus says, "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him -- work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend." Now that's what I call "getting ahead." If we try to get even, we will lose a friend, but if we forgive someone, we will make a friend!

Jesus did not call us to be his disciples to make other people pay for their sins by hurting them back. Instead, he told us to do what he did -- love them and forgive them. Sometimes that is very hard to do, but we can do it if we ask Jesus to help us.

Father, when someone hurts us, give us a forgiving spirit to talk to them and try to resolve the conflict rather than to try get even by hurting them back. Help us to love and forgive others as you have loved and forgiven us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

We've been talking the last few weeks about examples of faith and discussing how this faith can apply to us in our lives today. There is the faith in believing and trusting – like Peter who attempts to walk on water. There is the faith in being disciples and leaving all behind to take up the cross to follow and how we too can take it up and follow. This week we will continue on that theme of living faithfully by looking at the idea of relationships – how we make them, how we keep them and how we grow them.

Our God is of course a God of relationships. We were after all created in God's image and therefore our likeness to Him allows us relationship with Him. Even when we sin, and break that relationship, God moves heaven and earth to restore the relationship. Even when we seek to be the one making the decisions, controlling our lives the way that we want in our sinful ways, God still walks beside us. When we sin in our thought and our word and our deeds, by what we have done and by what we haven't done God is still in relationship with us. He knows that we are imperfect and the Holy Spirit was sent to move in and help us to feel God's presence and change our ways – as hard as that may be.

We spend each time we gather confessing our sinful ways – we start each service with acknowledging that we have failed and are sinful. We seek forgiveness – that we are given without cost or requirements – and are given that freedom from our sin and sent along to continue our walk beside Jesus. That walk is the where we SHOULD be moving our lives through. The walk with God, not the walk that we think we need to or the walk that we want to take in our self-controlling lives.

God doesn't keep track or cause us harm in our lives but rather comes to us to restore our relationship with Him and others. He created us to be in relation with him and he knows – and we should know – that we do not experience the true peace or life everlasting until we have truly committed to this relationship with Him.

Our Gospel lesson today talks to us about our relationship with others – especially those who are brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's be honest – this isn't an easy thing to do – make, keep and grown relationships isn't something that comes easy.

When we get mad, hurt or offended it is only natural for us – it's our human response – to be get back at those who have done this to you. We want them to feel what we felt, right?? One way to do this in word – speaking badly or hurtful about the other person. This allows us to get sympathy for ourselves, gather up allies to be “on our side” or way of thinking, and of course hurts those that have offended. This is hurtful all around if you ask me and sadly can be very hard to fix or repair once those words have been spoken.

Our goal – what God wants for us – is to take those times when you are offended, when you are feeling hurt, to do just the opposite of creating strain and brokenness. God wants us to heal the relationship. He wants us to restore and renew it. To build it up rather than tear it down. We are called not to cause hurt – dwell only on the pain and hurt that is our own – but rather not give in to it simply to get even. Relationships are way too important to let break apart simply because of a hurt ego. Again, not that easy, I know.

We must, for the first step, we must reach to the one who has hurt us. We do so not by confrontation or strongly scolding but simply by letting that person know the hurt that you are feeling by what was said or not said, what was done or not done. We need to communicate with them to freely and openly express the feelings we may have and to work in relationship with them to fix what has been strained or broken.

Most of all we need forgiveness. Whether you hear them ask for forgiveness or whether you give forgiveness freely – this is truly not only for the sake of the relationship but also for everyone's physical, and spiritual, and emotional well-being. We need to live in hope, in prayer and in belief that our relationship will be restored – even if it takes time to do so. After all, God never gives up on our relationship with Him so I can't think of any better example for us than to be reminded never to close the door on repairing or restoring relationships in our lives too.

It's so important to be thankful and appreciate the relationships that we have in our lives. We so often find ourselves putting off connecting with others when things get busy and hectic in our lives. Our special relationships can be strained when we don't put in the time and effort to keep them strong – when we give up on them because they aren't doing what we think they could or should be doing. When we allow ourselves to lose track of that connection and our relationships simply fade away. We as social and human beings were created, however, for relationships – with God and with others.

Healthy relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ are so important. These vibrant relationships form a bold and loving witness to God and those around us.

As people of faith, we must seek to live our lives in faith. Faithfulness to Christ in allowing our faith to motivate and drive us through our words and our actions. Faithfulness is more than just knowing the right things and doing the right things. Faithfulness compels us to live in relationship with others, not as enemies, but rather as faithful friends who all received the gift of Christ dying for us. That death that allowed us to be forgiven, be in relationship with God, and be loved for and cared for with the promise of eternal life.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we ask that you help us to be peacemakers in all relationships. Help to always remember the relationship that we have with you and to seek peace in those relationships that we struggle within our lives. Help us to build bridges when there seems to be brokenness in others. Equip us with strength and understanding to forgive those that hurt us and repair those relationships that seem lost in our lives. May you receive all the glory for this. In your name. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour. For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days, For the living of these days.

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.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen our partnerships and guide our work. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. 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**

In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace live together. Protecting God, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict – be it from safe practices because of COVID or from racial disparity. God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, politicians and all of us to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. 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

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,

Praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

Drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,

Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday – September 13th – RALLY SUNDAY - Outdoor Worship at Kirkebo – 9AM.

A time for all of us to gather again – safely and at a distance - Please bring a chair

Sunday – September 20th – Outdoor Worship at Nora – 9AM

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

Building Bridges



"If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him--work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend."

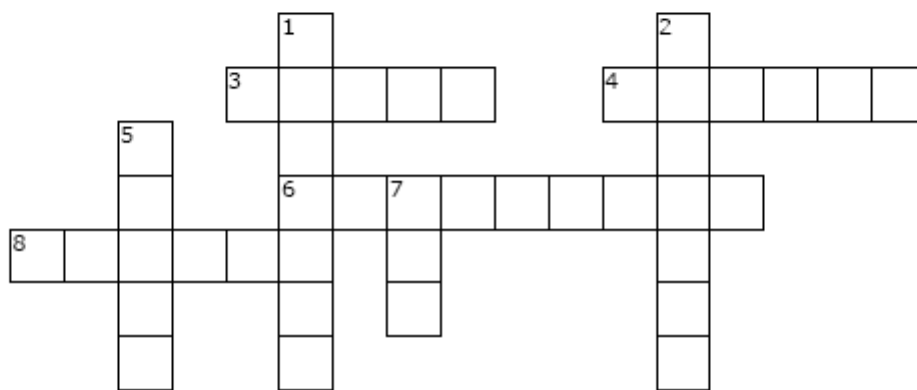
Matthew 18:15 (NIV)

When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. Matthew 18:15a



Based on Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 3. A statement proven to be accurate
- 4. To pay attention; To make an effort to hear something
- 6. A spoken or written statement that something is true
- 8. All followers of Christ as a group

DOWN

- 1. A member of the same race, church, religious group, or organization
- 2. A person who sees an event happen
- 5. A quality in a person that shows that they are not perfect
- 7. Breaking a religious law

BROTHER	TESTIMONY	SIN	LISTEN
WITNESS	FAULT	CHURCH	TRUTH

When Someone Hurts You

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Based on Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV)

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

TRUTH	HEAVEN	BIND	FAULT	FATHER
AGAINST	EARTH	SINS	LOOSE	SHOW
CHURCH	WITNESSES	REFUSES	HEAVEN	LISTENS
YOU	AGREE	TESTIMONY	WON	BROTHER

When Someone Hurts You

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. Matthew 18:15a (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



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

- 12-5-4-25-20 _____
- 19-11-4-2-9 _____
- 18-8-25-18 _____
- 12-14-5-9-22-1-14 _____
- 22-1-11-21-1-25 _____
- 25-11-6-1 _____
- 2-5-5-18-1-20 _____
- 2-8-18-9-1-25 _____
- 1-11-14-9-22 _____
- 9-5-16-1-9-22-1-14 _____

NAME	LOOSED	SINS	EARTH	TOGETHER
HEAVEN	LISTEN	BOUND	FAULT	BROTHER