

**Perley Parish**  
**Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 25**  
**September 26<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Gathering Hymn: Abide with Me  
Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Welcome and Announcements  
Lutefisk – wonderful time together  
9AM streaming will continue  
Reach out

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,  
and whose live is endless. Amen

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter:

**Like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our face away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen**

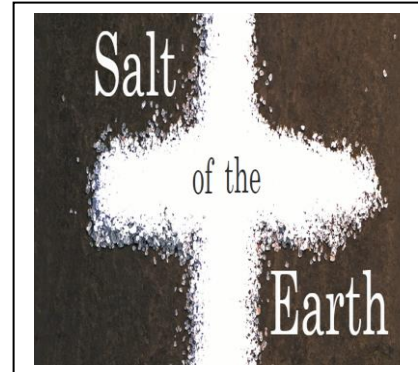
All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in +Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

**Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do, empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 19:7-14 (read responsively)

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;** the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.** Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. **But who can detect their errors? Clear me**



**from hidden faults.** Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29.

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

### **Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:38-50 Glory to you O Lord**

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone<sup>[a]</sup> casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,<sup>[b]</sup> it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble,

tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### Children's Message – Cook book & Cookies

I decided to bake a batch of cookies to share with you today. The first thing I did was get out a cookbook. I looked through a lot of recipes before I decided which one to use and one thing I noticed about all of the cookie recipes was that they all used at least a cup or two of sugar, but they also used a pinch of salt. It makes sense that cookies would have a lot of sugar because cookies are a sweet treat, but why the pinch of salt? The reason is that salt makes sweet food taste sweeter by reducing bitterness. But it only takes a pinch because you don't want your cookies to be salty tasting, do you?

Some of you may be saying, "Wait a minute, I didn't come to church for a cooking class. What does this have to do with our Bible lesson today?" Well, you may remember that Jesus, in his Sermon on the Mount said, "You are the salt of the earth." In our lesson today, Jesus talked about salt again. In today's memory verse, Jesus said, "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."

You may be thinking, "I am just a child, how much good can I do in the world?" Remember, most recipes call for just a "pinch of salt." That isn't very much salt, but it changes the taste of an entire batch of cookies. If you don't have that little bit of salt, you will definitely notice that there is something missing in your cookies!

There is a lot of hatred and bitterness in our world today. If you and I will show the love of Jesus in all that we do, we can be the salt of the earth like Jesus called us to be. Just a pinch of salt can do much to reduce bitterness and bring peace to our world.

Heavenly Father, we are only children, but we ask you to help to be that "pinch of salt" that will flavor our world with your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Message

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

As I was preparing for my message this morning – after reading through the Gospel of course – I came across the cutest little story that I'd like to share with you. It's a story by Doyle Young about how there was a little Baptist Church in Mayfield County, Kentucky back in the 1890's. This church had two deacons – deacons in the Baptist church are people who assist the pastor. Well these two deacons didn't get along too well – lots of constant arguing and bickering day after day. One of the deacons put up a small wooden peg on the back wall so that the pastor could hang up his hat. When the other deacon came upon the peg he was outraged and called out to the other deacon "How dare you put up a peg without consulting me!" It was quite the ordeal and the members of the church took sides on the issue – some stood behind one deacon and the other behind the

other deacon. It was such a fiasco that the congregation eventually split. To this day the residents of Mayfield Country still refer to the two churches as Peg Baptist Church and Anti-Peg Baptist Church. How ridiculous, right??

In our Gospel this morning there appears to be real contrast between the first four verses and what follows those verses. Let's look at these again. We begin by hearing Mark has John, one of Jesus' closest disciples, telling Jesus that they "happened" upon someone who was casting out demons, healing someone of various diseases, and doing so in the name of Jesus. The issue that John had was that the person doing it wasn't one of the disciples – one of those that had been making this journey alongside of Jesus – following him day after day, place after place as so many of them had been doing.

I'm sure the person would've probably have heard Jesus speak before – perhaps even witnessed Jesus performing a healing or miraculous feat. But then again, who knows – maybe he had never even seen or heard him. He may have just heard ABOUT Jesus and his reputation. We can't be sure of course. If we want to look at this through a modern day lens – this person may never have been a member of a church but had heard others tell about their own encounter with Jesus, believed the witness testimony and prayed for the healing of others in Jesus' name. What the rub here is for John is that in Biblical Scholarship understanding, to perform an "act in the name of Jesus" literally meant that you were doing the act by the authority of Jesus.

John – clearly the spokesperson for the group in this passage – tell Jesus that they tried to make the person stop the healing by invoking his name – clearly you can't be doing what you are doing because you aren't following Jesus and therefore you CAN'T use his name when you do things. He's not one of US Jesus so we told him to stop. But Jesus flips it around and says "Do not stop him: for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." He doesn't stop there – he tells them that even if a person gives you a simple drink of water because you are following Jesus the Christ, that person will not go unrewarded. I think he's trying to tell them that it really doesn't matter if you are a "member" of what's going on – a faithful follower – that an act of kindness in his name will indeed give to you his blessing.

He doesn't stop there – in fact Jesus goes on to address his disciples and those that are following him as "members" of his church with a stern warning. *"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,<sup>[b]</sup> it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. And he continues. "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell."*

We've got some definite contrast here. If someone acts to perform a healing in his name, if someone gives a thirsty member of Christ's church a drink in his name .... It doesn't matter – they WILL receive reward. But if we, as members of Christ's church do anything to cause someone outside of the church to lose faith in Him, we should remove our sinful eye, or arm or leg, rather than risk being thrown into hell.

Now first, let's be assured that Jesus isn't speak literally to cut any limbs off or pluck out an eye since simply because they have caused you to sin. The church has and never would be an advocate for that. What is notable here is that Jesus often used obvious exaggerations and overstatements to help the disciples and his followers to understand what he was trying to say. To stress a point and catch the attention of those he was teaching. I have to believe that this passage was doing just that – stressing the idea that we need to be, as member of his church, self-critical – to realize that the cause of sin comes from within ourselves, rather than from someone or something outside of ourselves.

One thing that cannot not be ignored is the contrast that Jesus is making in this passage between an everlasting life with the Father and the alternative. Hell in this passage – as originally translated – is an actual place. It was a valley outside the city walls of Jerusalem. A place where centuries before the time of Jesus, had been a place of pagan odlatry, where unfaithful Israelites once offer up sacrifices to the pagan Gods. As a result, it had long been a horrible and condemned eternally UNHOLY place. Since it was an actual place at the time of Jesus, many scholars question whether Jesus was literally describing a place in there hereafter or simply a stark contrast between the two eternal kingdoms waiting for us after our death – the flames of hell or the golden lined streets of heaven. I myself don't doubt that Jesus invites us, through our faith in the death and resurrection, to a life beyond death – a life together with him in God's heavenly kingdom. This is the true message of the Gospels and the message that we are all called to proclaim as his disciples.

The impact – the lesson of this morning – is that we should worry less about those who call on Jesus' name, but do not follow us in our forms of worship and understanding – as much as we should worry about our own lives of faith. HE calls on us to confront our own sinfulness, and strive to amend our own lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus call on us to live by faith, to trust in him, even through those times in which we might be tested with fire. May God's spirit so grant us the will and ability to do just this. Amen

### **Hymn of the Day/Offering: Change My Heart O God**

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.  
You are the potter, I am the clay,  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

### **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**)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. We pray for the church and its ministry. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service and worship. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Be with and watch over those who are working in the fields and hauling crops. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those struggling with cancer, dementia or any of the many diseases we have in our world today. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. We lift up today Sonya and Roger, Daniel and Terry, Cory and Krissy, Marlis and Kirk, Evonne and Whitney, Jaime, Anne and Brent, and all those we name silently now in our own hearts..... Help them to healing and wholeness when the path forward seems so long and often times bleak. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you. Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Words of Institution and 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***

Invitation Communion:

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

After Communion Prayer:

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, hearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Blessing:

People of God you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, +one God, bless you now and forever. Amen

Sending Song: Amazing Grace  
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
We have already come  
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far  
And Grace will lead us home

Dismissal  
Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9AM at Kirkebo,  
NORA - Bazaar & Pancakes



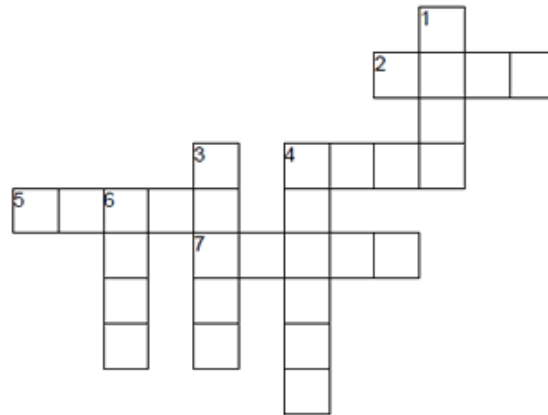
You are the salt of the earth  
Matthew 5:13



# A Pinch of Salt!

"Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other." Mark 9:50 (NLT)

Complete the activity below.



## ACROSS

2. To fail to keep something
4. What we eat to get the nutrients that our body needs
5. To put something in your mouth to determine its flavor
7. To do something once more

## DOWN

1. Not bad
3. Freedom from arguments and disagreements
4. The way a food or drink is recognized from its taste or smell
6. A white substance used to flavor or preserve food

FOOD	SALT	GOOD	AGAIN
FLAVOR	TASTE	PEACE	LOSE

# A Pinch of Salt!

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?" Mark 9:50a (NIV)

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

- 16-5-1-3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-12-1-22-15-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-1-12-20-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-15-15-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12-15-19-5-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-5-1-19-15-14-9-14-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1-7-1-9-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-1-12-20 \_\_\_\_\_

PEACE	FLAVOR	SALTY	GOOD
LOSES	SEASONING	AGAIN	SALT

# A Pinch of Salt!

"Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other." Mark 9:50 (NLT)



Search the puzzle to find the hidden words.

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

TASTE  
HATE  
AGAIN

PEACE  
LOSE  
SWEET

PINCH  
SUGAR  
SALT

BITTER  
FOOD  
RECIPE

EARTH  
FLAVOR  
GOOD