

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Sept 27, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

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Worship Times: First Sask Worship - 9:00 a.m.

St. Paul Worship - 11:00 a.m.

First Sask

St. Paul

Assistants: Eric Anderson

Peter Kingsmill

Ushers: J & T Farthing

D Kindt/P Kingsmill

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness:

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: 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 judgment 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.

P: 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. Amen.

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.

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-8: First Sask LBW p.226

Psalm 25:1-9: St. Paul Psalms after p.338

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon/Reflection:

Jesus is talking to the chief priests and elders of the temple in today's Gospel text. They're the ones who interpret God's will to the people, and they are not pleased with this young, transient Galilean preacher barging in and flipping all of the rules on their heads.

It becomes abundantly clear that these religious leaders aren't so much concerned about the truth as their own pious image. So Jesus holds up a mirror for them in the parable of the two sons. And in hearing this story, we too are confronted by all we have promised in our discipleship but left undone.

But if honest humility and seeking the kingdom way are more important than image in the transforming power of God, even our undone deeds can serve a holy purpose, alerting us to the work that exists in the world, and reminding us that God continues to be at work, transforming us and the world, humbling us so that we may serve better, and reminding us that the offer to work in the vineyard is still there waiting for us, no matter how roundabout a path we might take to get there.

And of course, we do all of this looking to the one who embodied humility, as we hear in the beautiful reading from Philippians: "he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, and becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross". This is the one who lives in us, who frees us from the self-obsessive prison of shame, and who leads us to peace that only he can give. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

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

A Brief Silence

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

A: Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. We pray for all those in need (especially...). Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

Offering Prayer:

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good

creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving: First Sask WOV p.36
St. Paul p.206

Words of Institution

HOLY COMMUNION

Let us remember in our prayers: Pastor Randy Fiege, Gloria Hamp, Ida Muller, Sonia Zacharias, Darren Wilkie, Carla Wilkie, Susan Wonko, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp and to everyone affected by COVID 19

Also the family and friends of Ed Ruzesky who passed away Tuesday, September 22.

And, Dianne & Dale Kieper and Earl & Alison Kieper as they say good-bye to Dad/Grandpa, Gary Robinson. Service is today at Milden, SK, where he farmed all his life.

WELCOME HOME!

Thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will find this service different but hopefully not too dramatically different!

So far, we are not taking temperatures as we enter the church because we trust each other to stay home if you feel at all sick, but there are other changes. Ushers will have not just welcomed you, they will have told you where to sit (something they probably felt uncomfortable doing but which has to happen to keep each other safe). We will also notice - with sorrow and longing - that we cannot sing our favourite hymns and liturgies.

And on it goes: there will be any number of other changes from our past church experiences. So, on behalf of our church council, readers, assistants, and our Pastor, I beg that you relax

and follow along with dedication and - very importantly - with humour. In other words, we are truly asking that you forgive us our trespasses - or at least our errors! Peter K.

The Langham Community Refugee Sponsorship Committee

would like to thank First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church for their generous donation of \$1000.00 to their refugee family. The family requires some extensive dental work which is not covered under the basic plan. The LCRSC greatly appreciates the support.

Happy Birthday this week: Nyxi Salmond, Courtney Yasieniuk, Terri Mitchler, Harold Hoffman, Wally Roth, Cadence Lake, Darlene Kindt

Assistants next Sunday:

First Sask - Janice Brown
St. Paul - Valerie Kingsmill

Ushers next Sunday:

First Sask - Dwayne & Nicole Kindt
St. Paul - Garry Whitt

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

18 The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall

surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32

²³When 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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So 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.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.