

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 30—October 1, 2023



TELL US A STORY

JESUS' POWERFUL PARABLES

*A Story of Spiritual
Insincerity*



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Tell Us a Story —
A Story of Spiritual Insincerity*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Almighty and merciful God, you created all things, including me and all I love. Bless me to sing your praise and know your forgiveness. Thank you for your gifts in Christ. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Insincerity bothers us. In general, we prefer honesty over fake flattery. Sincerity over deception. Through a story, Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn't want us to "go through the motions" of faith as some sort of show. He sees right through that. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and he wants us to respond with deep and sincere love and faithfulness.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: A third of everything Jesus teaches in Scripture he taught in parables. Parables are simple stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. Since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith the story remains only that—a story.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Jessica Klatt

Praise Group: Luke Dorn, Jessie Wolfe, Lydia Mattson

Instrumentalists: Luke Dorn, Jessica Klatt, Brian Shult, Al Sehloff

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(10:30am) PRESCHOOL PRESERVICE: God Is So Good

God is so good. (3x) He's so good to me.

He cares for me. (3x) He's so good to me.

He loves me so. (3x) He's so good to me.

I praise His name. (3x) He's so good to me.

Order of Worship



(Saturday) HYMN: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

CW 648 sts. 1,4-5



1 Dear - est Je - sus, we are here, glad - ly your com -
4 Gra - cious Head, your mem - ber own; Shep - herd, take your
5 Now in - to your heart we pour prayers that from our



mand o - bey - ing; with this child we now draw near
lamb and feed it; Prince of Peace, make here your throne;
hearts pro - ceed - ed. Our pe - ti - tions heav'n - ward soar;



in re - sponse to your own say - ing that to you it
Way of Life, to heav - en lead it. Pre - cious Vine, let
may our warm de - sires be heed - ed! Write the name we



shall be giv - en as a child and heir of heav - en.
noth - ing sev - er from your side this branch for - ev - er.
now have giv - en; write it in the book of heav - en!

(Sunday) Praise Anthem

No Longer Slaves
By Helser, Case, Johnson

You unravel me with a melody. You surround me with a song
of deliverance from my enemies, till all my fears are gone.

I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God. (2x)

From my mother's womb, You have chosen me. Love has called my name.

I've been born again into Your family. Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God. (2x)

You split the sea so I could walk right through it.

My fears are drowned in perfect love.

You rescued me so I could stand and sing. I am a child of God.

I am a child of God

Please remain seated.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**


M: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.


Glory to God in the Highest (Gloria in Excelsis)

CW 176

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. (**Congregation sings refrain.**)

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. (**Congregation sings refrain.**)

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. (**Congregation sings refrain.**)

(10:30am) Sacrament of Baptism

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font at the 10:30am service.

M: Do you believe that you were born in sin and therefore eternally lost?

Kurah: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe that the triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—planned and carried out your salvation?

Kurah: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you believe that God grants you the forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism?

Kurah: Yes, I believe.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Kurah: Yes, I do.

M: Do you desire to be baptized in the Christian faith?

Kurah: Yes, I do.

M: Kurah Victoria Hartsock, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart \dagger to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Kurah as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The Prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“ ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?’

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child— both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

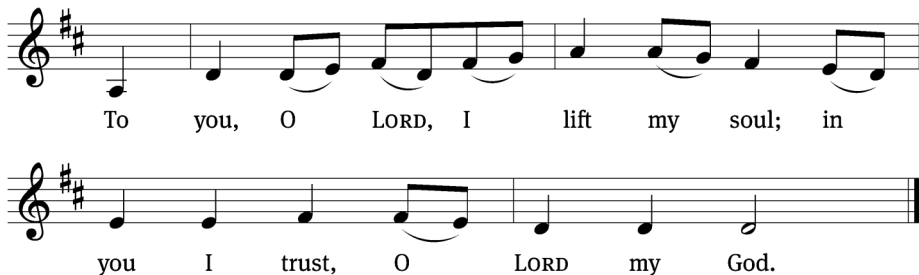
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25: To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul

The Men's Chorus or a cantor will sing the first refrain and all verses.

Refrain



To you, O LORD, I lift my soul; in
you I trust, O LORD my God.

Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my / Savior.

Remember, LORD, your great mer- / cy and love,
for they are / from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re- / bellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, / are good. **Refrain**

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af- / flicted.

Look on my affliction and / my distress
and take away / all my sins.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.

²⁸“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

Hymn of the Day: At the Name of Jesus

CW 547 sts. 1-3, 5



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
3 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.



'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 cher - u - bim in heav - en, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed;
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.

Sermon

Based on Matthew 21:28-32

“Which child of God are you?”

- 1) *The one with empty words?*
- 2) *The one with repentant actions?*

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering



 Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 Give Online

(10:30am) Installation of Kathy Smart as Parish Nurse

M: St. Paul wrote: *"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*

M: Dear sister, you have been hired to use your gifts in special service in the Lord's kingdom as Salem's parish nurse. I now ask you in the presence of God and this assembly: Will you carry out your responsibilities faithfully to the glory of Christ and in service to his church? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Kathy: I will, and I ask God to help me.

M: I install you as Parish Nurse in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Almighty bless you and direct your days and your deeds in his peace.

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Abide, O Dearest Jesus

CW 924 sts. 1, 6



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, a - mong us with your grace

6 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, a - mong us with your love;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

grant stead-fast-ness and help us to reach our home a - bove.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Salem School Update

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs. Join us for a new study beginning this week on the Bible's meaning and preservation from the time of the Apostles to us.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Tell Us a Story: A Story of Reckless Patience

Bible Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:12-21, Matthew 21:33-43

Hymns: 920, 862, 676, 928

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

