

**Lord,  
increase  
our faith.**

**Faith Demonstrated Through Persistent Prayer**

*The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*October 16, 2022*

## **SERIES THEME: LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH**

We sometimes use the word faith very casually. "You got to have faith." "Keep the faith." "Make a leap of faith." As Jesus' journey to Jerusalem nears its conclusion, he begins to talk about faith in ways that are anything but casual. He says profound things about the power of faith: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you" (Luke 17:6). Or "Your faith has made you well" (Luke 17:19). In thinking about his second coming, Christ wistfully wonders, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Jesus' words are serious and compelling. They force us to consider what true, saving faith is. They make us ask if we have such faith. But most of all, Jesus' words move us to run to our God and beg him for more of it. Lord, increase our faith!

## **THEME OF THE DAY: FAITH DEMONSTRATED THROUGH PERSISTENT PRAYER**

Disciples of Jesus need to learn how to pray. We need Jesus to teach us to ask for those things which our Father in heaven promises us. We need to learn to claim in prayer what he wants for us more than what we want from him. However, learning to pray is not like many of the other things we learn to do in our lives. Once we know how to write our name, tie our shoes, or ride a bike, the learning is done. There is virtually no danger we will forget how to do those things. Not so with prayer. Prayer is not something we learn to do once and then know how to do correctly for the rest of our lives. Learning to pray consists of a lifetime of persistence and struggle. But when we struggle with God in prayer, it is not an indication that something is wrong but that everything is right. Struggle is part of the very nature of prayer and at the heart of the blessings it brings in our lives of faith.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Quinton Corwin

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 803 Day by Day**

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 154*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



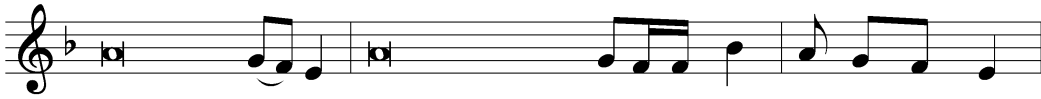
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



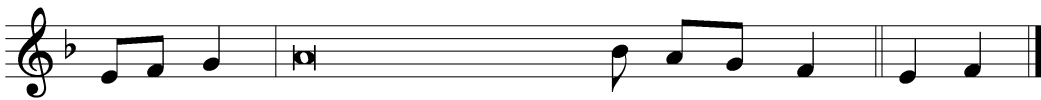
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your church as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins but in peace and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Genesis 32:22–30

*In praying for blessing, Jacob wrestles with God.*

### Jacob Wrestles With God

<sup>22</sup> He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. <sup>26</sup> The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak."

Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

<sup>28</sup> Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won."

<sup>29</sup> Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been spared."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: 121- Front of Hymnal: I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

## Second Reading

1 John 5:13–15

*When we ask God for something that is according to his will, we can be absolutely confident we will receive it.*

### Concluding Affirmations

<sup>13</sup> I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence that we have before him: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we also know that we receive the things we have asked from him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Peter 5:7



### Refrain



### Tone



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## Gospel

Luke 18:1–8

*Jesus teaches us to be bold and persistent in our prayers.*

### The Parable of the Persistent Widow

<sup>1</sup> Jesus told them a parable about the need to always pray and not lose heart: <sup>2</sup> "There was a judge in a certain town who did not fear God and did not care about people. <sup>3</sup> There was a widow in that town, and she kept going to him, saying, 'Give me justice from my adversary!' <sup>4</sup> For some time he refused, but after a while he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice so that she will not wear me out with her endless pleading.'"

<sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> Will not God give justice to his chosen ones, who are crying out to him day and night? Will he put off helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you that he will give them justice quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn of the Day: 723 When in the Hour of Utmost Need**

**Sermon:** *1 John 5:13-15*

*Stand*

### **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*

### **Installation of Council Members**

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.”

*The minister says to those being installed*

(Name), you have been elected to use your gifts in special service in the Lord’s kingdom as (elected position)

I now ask you in the presence of God and this assembly:

Will you carry out your responsibilities faithfully to the glory of Christ in service to his church? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

**I will, and I ask God to help me**

*The minister says to the assembly:*

Will you, brothers and sisters, support and pray for our elected leaders in their work? If so answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*The minister addresses those being installed*

I install you (name) as (elected position) in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, you call your people to service and give them various tasks in the world and in your church. Send down on these workers your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. Grant grace and strength, that they may serve you faithfully to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Go, then, and take up the work to which you have been elected. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Hymn: 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

#### **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;  
and 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.**

#### **Blessing**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Hymn: 724 Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

### **Quarterly Voters Meeting**

Bethel will have its quarterly voters meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

### **Joint Reformation Service**

The Joint Reformation Service will be here at Bethel at 4:00 PM on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to sing in the joint reformation choir then please contact Stan Nolte.

There will be a signup sheet in the narthex in the coming weeks to sign up for setup and/or clean-up for the meal that will be provided after the service. The main meal will be provided but please let Judy Remmers know if you are able to bring a salad/desert.

### **Eastern Pastors Conference**

Pastor Wilkens will be in Hastings for the Eastern Pastors conference on October 18-19 next week.

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**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 78, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given \$2,135.25. **To God be the glory!**

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