

**Lord,
increase
our faith.**

Faith Demonstrated Through Total Dependence

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

October 23, 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 TOTAL DEPENDENCE

Last week we heard Jesus ask, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). As we consider Jesus’ question, it might be easy to assume that any decrease in faith we observe in the world corresponds with an increase in secularism and disdain for God’s Word. That type of unbelief certainly can be observed in our world. However, today we see there is another type of unbelief, a type that looks upright and moral. The absence of the faith Jesus seeks isn’t always complete and total rejection of God or the Bible or even Jesus. It is possible for someone to have respect for Scripture and Christ, yet ultimately trust in his own goodness when it comes to his relationship with God. It is natural for us to want to believe that our relationship with God revolves around our obedience to his commands. We desperately desire to believe that, if we just apply the right spiritual advice and effort, we can earn God’s approval and eternal inheritance. This, too, is unbelief, just as much as paganism or secularism. This week Jesus uses God’s law for its chief purpose: to expose sin and crush our natural pride. In Christ’s hands God’s law is a powerful tool used to shape in us the faith he seeks—one totally dependent on God to do what only he can do.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Justin Wilkens
Kathy Bremer

Acknowledgments

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture quotations The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project/NPH. All rights reserved.
www.wartburgproject.org

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

Hymn: 816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

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,



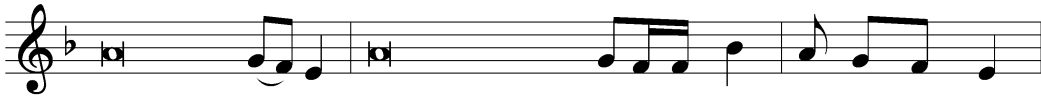
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



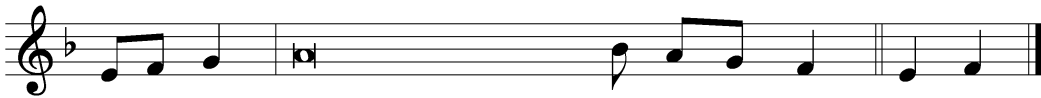
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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.

Lord, keep your household, the church, in continual godliness, and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; 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

Deuteronomy 10:12–22

In his farewell address, Moses reminds the Israelites that they always have been and forever will be totally dependent on God's grace.

Fear the LORD

¹² So now, Israel, what is the Lord your God asking of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ to keep the commandments of the Lord and his statutes that I am commanding you today for your own good.

¹⁴ Indeed, the heavens and the heaven of heavens, the earth and everything that is on it—these belong to the Lord your God. ¹⁵ Still, the Lord attached himself to your fathers, loved them, and he chose their descendants after them (that's you!) from all peoples, as it is today.

¹⁶ So cut away the tough shell of your sinful nature, and do not be stubborn any longer.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is God of Gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, the mighty one and the awesome one, who does not show favoritism and does not take a bribe. ¹⁸ He carries out justice for the fatherless and widows. He loves the alien who dwells among you and gives him food and clothing. ¹⁹ So you are to love the alien, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ Fear the Lord your God, serve him, cling to him, and take your oaths in his name.

²¹ He is your glory. He is your God, who performed for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

²² When your fathers went down to Egypt, they numbered seventy people, but now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 90- Front of Hymnal: Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Second Reading

1 John 2:15–17

St. John encourages us to love and depend on our heavenly Father, not the world.

On Not Loving the World

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, boasting about material possessions—is not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

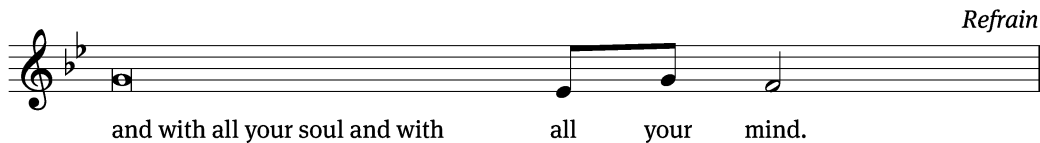
Matthew 22:37



Refrain



Tone



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

Luke 18:18–30

What is impossible with man is possible with God. That is why we are totally dependent on him.

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹ Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. Honor your father and mother.'"

²¹ "I have kept all these since I was a child," he said.

²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²³ But when the ruler heard these words, he became very sad, because he was very rich.

²⁴ When Jesus saw that the man became very sad, he said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ Those who heard this said, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷ He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible for God."

²⁸ And Peter said, "Look, we have left our possessions and followed you."

²⁹ He said to them, "Amen I tell you: Anyone who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will most certainly receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come, eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 717 What Is the World to Me

Sermon: *Luke 18:18-30*

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

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

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: 510 In Christ Alone

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 and Communion

Joint Reformation Service

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

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

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex so we know who is planning on being here to help set-up and clean-up for the reformation service.

The main meal will be provided but please let Judy Remmers know if you are able to bring a salad/desert.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.bethelyork.com on the member connect tab or scan this code.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 60, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given \$1,485.25. **To God be the glory!**

800 N East Ave | York, NE | www.bethelyork.com