



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG **This Train is Bound for Glory**

This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory.
 Jesus made a place in heaven for me.
 This train is bound for glory, this train.
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This is our third week traveling down the Rocky Railroad, do you feel like you're on the track? What we are learning is no matter what, **Jesus' power pulls us through.** Do you remember the bible point from week one? **Jesus' power helps us do hard things.** And how about last week? **Jesus' power gives us hope.** Paul was caught in a horrible storm but God encouraged him and when all seemed hopeless...Paul and his shipmates found the hope to weather the storm. Today we have a story about the disciples Peter and John who like Paul, from last week, has to give people hope and like Ananias, in our first week's story, had to do something hard. But Jesus power helps us do hard things and gives us hope. Let's hear the story of Peter and John, who found a way to share some hope to some people in need and were given the power to face some people who tried to stop them teach about Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

Acts 3:1-4:31

One day at three o'clock in the afternoon, Peter and John were on their way into the Temple for prayer meeting. At the same time there was a man crippled from birth being carried up. Every day he was set down at the Temple gate, the one named Beautiful, to beg from those going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter the Temple, he asked for a handout. Peter, with John at his side, looked him straight in the eye and said, "Look here." He looked up, expecting to get something from them.

Peter said, "I don't have a nickel to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" He grabbed him by the right hand and pulled him up. In an instant his feet and ankles became firm. He jumped to his feet and walked. The man went into the Temple with them, walking back and forth, dancing and praising God. Everybody there saw him walking around and praising God. They recognized him as the one who sat begging at the Temple's Gate Beautiful and rubbed their eyes, astonished, scarcely believing what they were seeing. The man threw his arms around Peter and John, ecstatic. All the people ran up to where they were at Solomon's Porch to see it for themselves.

When Peter saw he had a congregation, he addressed the people: “Oh, Israelites, why does this take you by such complete surprise, and why stare at us as if *our* power or piety made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his Son Jesus. The very One that Pilate called innocent, you repudiated. You repudiated the Holy One, the Just One, and asked for a murderer in his place. You no sooner killed the Author of Life than God raised him from the dead—and we’re the witnesses. Faith in Jesus’ name put this man, whose condition you know so well, on his feet—yes, faith and nothing but faith put this man healed and whole right before your eyes.

“And now, friends, I know you had no idea what you were doing when you killed Jesus, and neither did your leaders. But God, who through the preaching of all the prophets had said all along that his Messiah would be killed, knew exactly what you were doing and used it to fulfill his plans.

“Now it’s time to change your ways! Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you, and send you the Messiah he prepared for you, namely, Jesus. For the time being he must remain out of sight in heaven until everything is restored to order again just the way God, through the preaching of his holy prophets of old, said it would be. Moses, for instance, said, ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet just like me from your family.

While Peter and John were addressing the people, the priests, the chief of the Temple police, and some Sadducees came up, indignant that these upstart apostles were instructing the people and proclaiming that the resurrection from the dead had taken place in Jesus. They arrested them and threw them in jail until morning, for by now it was late in the evening. But many of those who listened had already believed the Message—in round numbers about five thousand!

They couldn’t take their eyes off them—Peter and John standing there so confident, so sure of themselves! Their fascination deepened when they realized these two were laymen with no training in Scripture or formal education. They recognized them as companions of Jesus, but with the man right before them, seeing him standing there so upright—so healed!—what could they say against that? They sent them out of the room so they could work out a plan. They talked

it over: “What can we do with these men? By now it’s known all over town that a miracle has occurred, and that they are behind it. There is no way we can refute that. But so that it doesn’t go any further, let’s silence them with threats so they won’t dare to use Jesus’ name ever again with anyone.”

As soon as Peter and John were let go, they went to their friends and told them what the high priests and religious leaders had said. Hearing the report, they lifted their voices in a wonderful harmony in prayer. While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God’s Word with fearless confidence.

Sometimes we have to stand up for what we believe. We have to say things that are unpopular. We might need to share what we believe about Jesus even when others might not want you to hear about it. But what we can learn from our bible story today is like Peter and John, **Jesus’ power helps us be bold**. I wonder what bible buddy might teach us to have the courage to be bold. How about a mountain lion named Sierra?

BIBLE MEMORY BUDDY Let’s watch our video and meet – Sierra- Video 3:15 Sierra reminds us that God, “gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless” (Isaiah 40:29) Let’s sing a song about how God’s power will pull us through.

VBS SENDING SONG ***Your Power Will Pull Us Through***

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.
You’re all, you’re all, you’re all that we need.
Your power will pull us through.
We’re trusting in you!
We’re trusting in you!
 You give us hope and life that’s forever.
 You make us bold, And we stand together.
 Your power will pull us through.
 We’re trusting in you!
 We’re trusting in you!
We’re off on this journey; there’s no looking back.

With Jesus to lead us, we're on the right track.

Ohh, ohh.

Wide open spaces for wide open eyes.

We're looking ahead for the next big surprise.

Ohh, ohh.

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.

You're all, you're all, you're all that we need.

Your power will pull us through.

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you!

You give us hope and life that's forever.

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We're trusting in you!

You give us hope and life that's forever.

You make us bold, And we stand together.

Your power will pull us through.

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

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

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE SONG**Dearest Jesus, at Your Word**

ELW #520



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] 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.

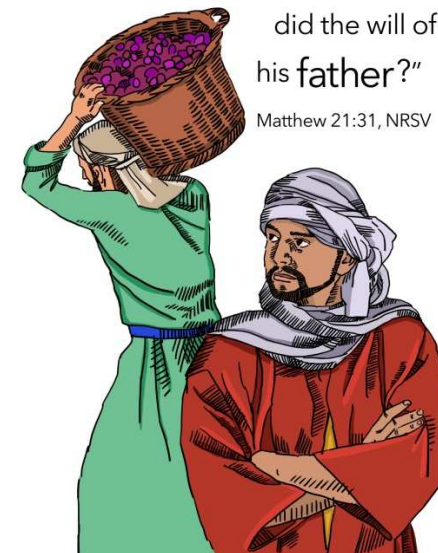
²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

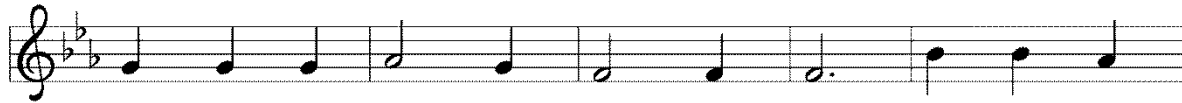
"Which of the two
 did the will of
 his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV

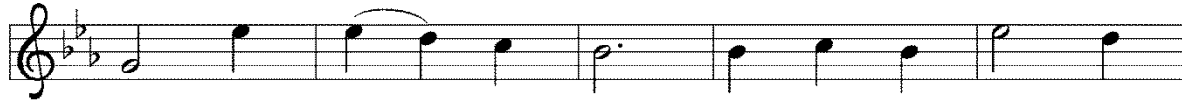


SERMON HYMN***O Master, Let Me Walk with You***

ELW #818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

PROFESSION OF FAITH***Apostle's Creed***

ELW p.105

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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Voices Raised to You

ELW #845



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Preaching: Pastor Steve Smith

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Altar Guild for August: Sharon Casey

Jean Rondeau

The radio broadcast this morning is given in memory of Mike Langerud and Ernie Langerud from Sue, Mindy and family.

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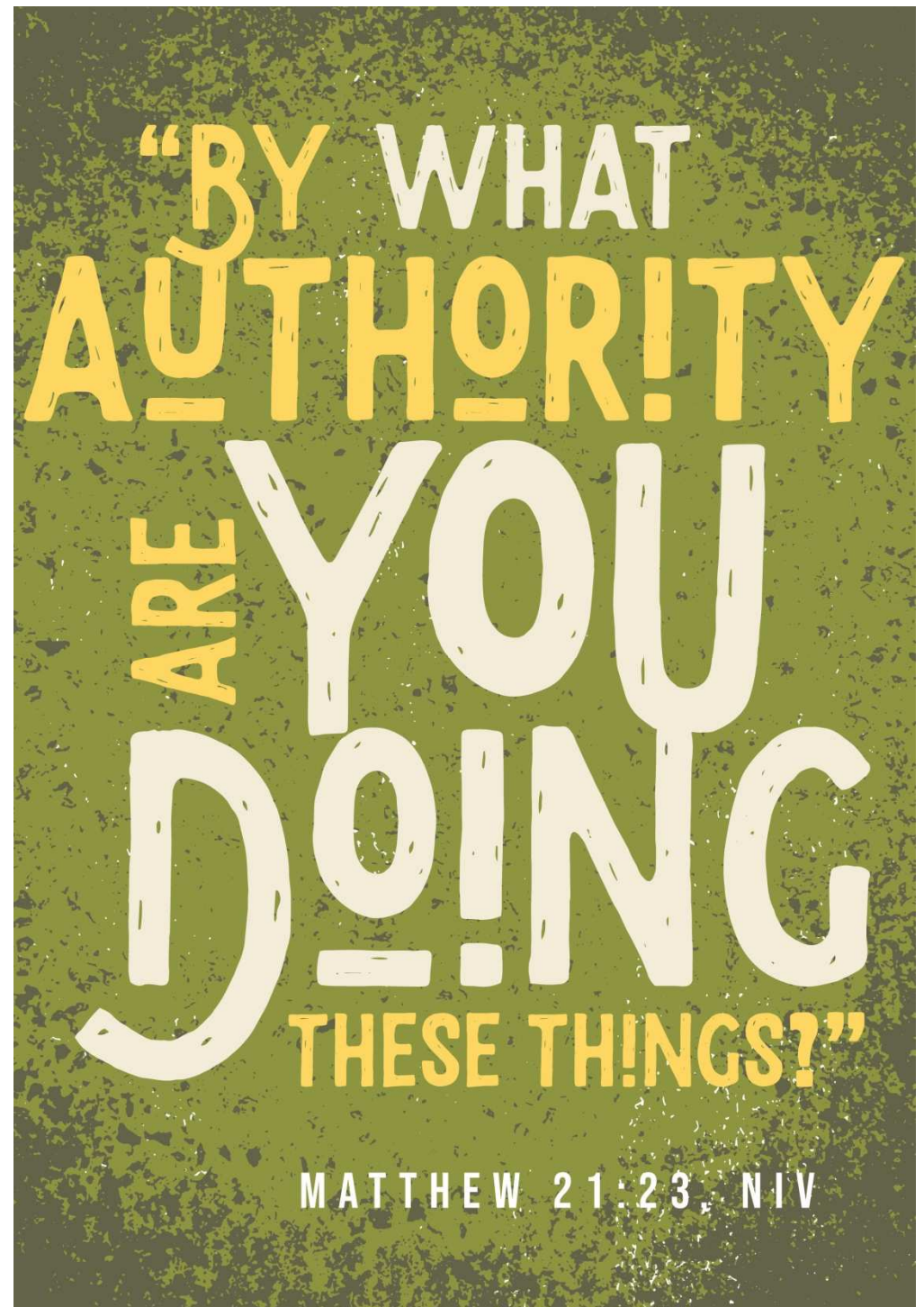
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Call to Worship from Ministry Matters @ https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/nancy_townley



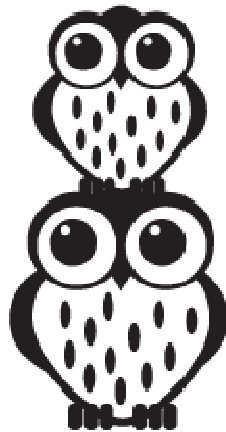


PUZZLE

WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| school | --○---- |
| paper | --○-- |
| wisdom | ---○- |
| read | ----○ |
| play | ----- |
| learn | ○----- |
| grow | --○----- |
| pencils | ----- |
| pray | --○--- |
| art | ----- |
| student | ----○--- |
| kids | ---○----- |
| apple | ---○----- |

"... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful."

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answers: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom

A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!