

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-10

- ⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- ⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- ⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out
the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- ⁷ But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- ⁹ Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like
a garment;
the moth will eat them up.
- ¹⁰ Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the Lord
and rely on his God.

Epistle: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of

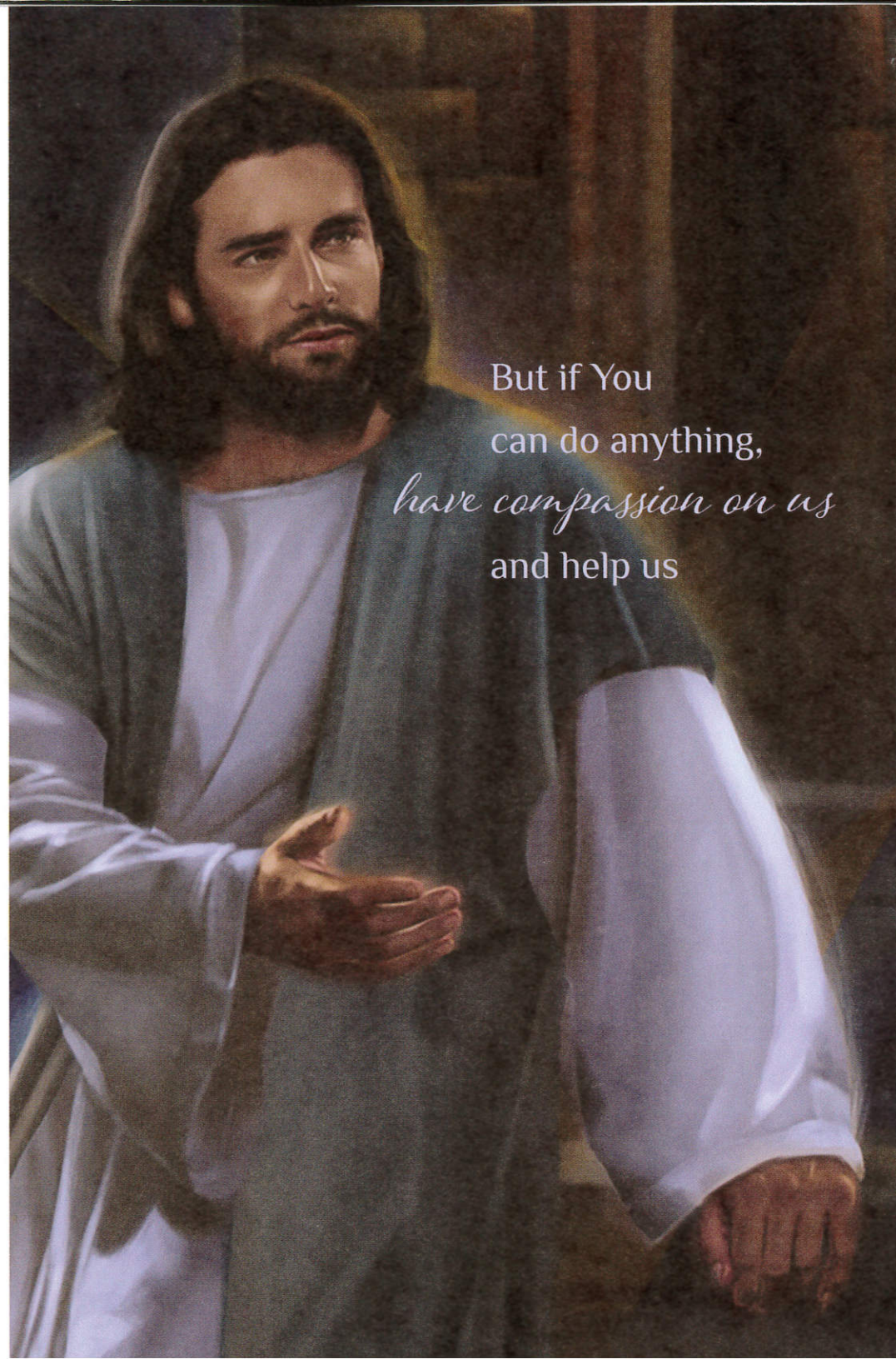
unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."



About the Cover: After the disciples could not cast out the demon from the boy, an exasperated father pleaded with Jesus to see if He could do anything. When Jesus said, "If You can! All things are possible one who believes," it is without question that Jesus can accomplish this. When the father says, "I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:23-24), it is also without question that Jesus has compassion on all who call upon Him, no matter how weak their faith. His compassion to save depends solely on His love, which is shown in the giving of Himself to conquer sin, death, and the devil for us.



But if You
can do anything,
have compassion on us
and help us

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

September 15, 2024 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Three (Lutheran Service Book, p. 184)

Hymn of Invocation 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Invocation and Versicles (p. 184)

Introit

Psalm 31:14–16; antiphon: v. 24

Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my
enemies and from my persecutors!

**Make your face shine on your servant;
save me in your steadfast love!**

Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!

Gloria Patri and Kyrie (p. 186)

Gloria In Excelsis (p. 187)

Collect of the Day

[P] Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen. *(sung)*

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!

**Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

The Nicene Creed (p. 191)

Hymn of the Day 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Sermon

Offertory (p. 192)

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

[P] Lord, in Your mercy,

[C] hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

[P] ...one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the Sacrament at St. John's.)

Distribution Hymns

574 Before the Throne of God Above

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

662 Onward, Christian Soldiers

Nunc Dimittis (p. 199)

Hymn to Depart 748 I'm But a Stranger Here

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Heavenly Father, who demanded commitment even to the death of your Son, Jesus Christ, give us understanding of His purposes in such measure that we, too, are willing to expend the price of faith and the cost of the Christian life in sheer gratitude to You and to Him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's summer hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to have daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—6 Adult Bible Class—10 Worship—47

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday	\$4,875.00
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget	\$4,481.54

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Youth meeting
Tuesday		LWML Fall Rally, St. Matthew's
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

MARK 9:24 – “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’” Haven’t we often felt like this! And notice that Jesus does not throw the man out because of his weakness of faith: He still has pity, and He still blesses the man. But neither does Jesus leave people in weakness of faith. He blesses us and calls us to a deeper faith, as He did to the disciples in the boat on the storm-tossed sea. How does our faith grow? By hearing the Word of God. What does our faith lead to as it grows? A godly life lived in thanksgiving to our Lord.

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGE—The church phone number is changed. Please make a note of this change. **The new church number is: 815-989-2025.** This will connect you to either the church office or Pastor's office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDED—We are look for 2-3 people to serve on this committee. Please contact Dave Schmedt if you are willing to help. Anyone willing to serve on a Board may also contact Dave.

As stated in our By-Laws, we will be seeking people to fill the following positions. Everyone is asked to consider where they might serve:

Chairman	Financial Treasurer	Elder
Trustee	Evangelism	Stewardship (2)
SS Superintendent		

CHRISTIAN LIVING—Mark 9:14-29: In today's Gospel reading, Jesus demonstrated His divine power over Satan and his wicked angels. Satan is still very active in our world, but we can believe in and share the Good News that Jesus has overcome the devil and will protect His people from Satan's evil attacks. The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

LIFE THOUGHTS—In Christ God embraced and befriended hearts and bodies ruined by sin. He allowed neither disabilities nor disobedience to separate anyone from His love (Luke 14:1-4). This forgiveness heals us to share the same gracious kingdom with the ones right in front of us who struggle with impairment and iniquity (Luke 14:12-14). *Prayer: Extend Your kingdom, Lord Jesus, through me to those who are broken like I am. Amen.*

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>. (Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing!)

ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. Please sign up for a Sunday.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:

MISSION—*Rejoice that God gives and sustains faith in the Holy Trinity. Rejoice that God is love.*

ST JOHN'S—**Miss Teresa Firch**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Teresa asking Your blessings upon her.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw
Betty Firch	Arlyn Helke	Jessica Johnson
Lynne Johnson	Linda Lundquist	Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Wildermuth	Marilyn Woods
Dawn Daebelliehn		

Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family (Adopted Seminarian)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Shandel Loenser

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Todd Erbst (former member of St. John's)

Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)

Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)

Gary Kilstom (friend of Brad Gehn)

Kenneth Cullison (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy Davila (daughter of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

"I pray that you will recognize and value those people in your life who were blessed by God so they could be a blessing to you! I especially pray that you will then use the blessings God has bestowed on you to bless those around you and to pass these blessings on to your own descendants to a thousand generations. Now is the time to pass on the gift. Now is the time to pass the baton to the next runner in the race! To God be all the glory!" *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransfor-life.org*

MEET OUR ADOPTED SEMINARY STUDENT

Shaeli, Nate, Ella, Beckett, Brandon Streeks



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 15, 2024
Text: Mark 9:14-29 (Gospel)
Other Texts: Isaiah 50:4-10 (Old Testament); James 3:1-12 (Epistle)

“Powerful Enemies, A More Powerful Friend”

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our text for this morning’s meditation is the Gospel reading from St. Mark. After Jesus’ transfiguration He, with Peter, James, and John, come down the mountain to find the scribes arguing with His other nine disciples all surrounded by a big crowd. From experiencing the glory of paradise to the harsh sorrow-filled realities of this earth; from harmony with heaven’s residents, represented by the fellowship of Jesus, Moses and Elijah, to the discord and hatred of earth’s residents, represented by the other nine disciples and the religious leaders; from communion with the Heavenly Father, to confrontation with the Father of Lies.

The vision on the mount was given to serve the valley of need for the same compassion that brought the eternal Son from heaven to earth now brings Him down from the mount of rapture to the lowlands of struggle and suffering. So we today are still assured of our Lord’s continuing presence in our trials and miseries. At the same time, we are reminded that we too are to bring the Gospel to the perishing and to serve others, especially helping them in their misery, which means that we too must be in this world where the sinners and those in need *actually are*.

The situation is grim when Jesus joins them. A crowd of spectators watching a show, scribes delightfully mocking the nine disciples, the disciples weakly defending themselves, and a discouraged, despairing father who explains the situation to Jesus, including the horrors of his son’s condition and the disciples’ inability to help him. Jesus’ response? “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?”ⁱ

Who is this faithless generation? Certainly, the scribes are faithless, unbelievers in the fullest sense as they actively resist Jesus. They are fine representatives of religious hypocrites, but also all who blatantly resist and reject Jesus and His Word. Their destruction is just.

The crowds are faithless, unwilling to commit to Christ as they remain mere spectators, watching the excitement of miracles, wondering which group will win in the end. But the Lord did not come to be a traveling show, but the Savior. And on the Last Day He will reveal Himself as the winner, the *conqueror*, but then it will be too late. There will be no glory in heaven for those who did not repent and believe while still here on earth.

But, and this is most sobering indeed, *Jesus was including His own disciples as well* in “this faithless generation.” For it certainly was not the faithlessness of the crowds or the scribes that caused the disciples to fail to cast out the demon. They had been given the authority to cast out unclean spirits and had successfully done so before.ⁱⁱ But here they fail utterly and by their unbelief they brought disgrace onto Christ and His Word.

And this is still true today. For skeptics attack and unbelievers despise and ignore, but it is especially those who claim to be Christians, when they refuse to use His Word and power in their lives and so fall into faithlessness and sin, it is *they* who cause the most damage. Such faithless “Christians” encourage others to see Jesus as weak and ineffective and, consequently, as unimportant to believe in and unnecessary and commit to. Truly, when believers fall into sin, when *they join unbelievers in sin*, they bring the greatest shame and dishonor onto Christ. How long will He bear with those who do such? May we never put Him to the test!

Our text shows the reality of the invisible creation. An unclean spirit, in the moral sense as it is wicked and evil in every way, has tormented this poor boy since he was a child, causing symptoms very similar to epilepsy. Let us seriously ponder a few truths this text reveals.

To begin, it is at least possible for demons to afflict people with suffering that mirrors illness. Now clearly we must not diagnose every bout of a cold or cancer as being caused by a demon any more than we should assume every illness or death of a Christian is brought about by their eating and drinking the Lord’s Supper to their judgment.ⁱⁱⁱ Quite evidently, the vast majority are caused by various aspects of a fallen creation: microbes, uncontrolled cellular growth, genetic factors, brain damage, etc. Yet, while seeing the devil as the cause of every cough is obviously overboard, forgetting that he is a murderer who can impact the material creation including humans, and fully delights in doing such, is equally foolish. (He afflicted Job!)

Dear Christians, seeing this boy’s terrible suffering gives us a glimpse into the devil’s goals; that he delights in bringing us suffering and torment in body and soul, surely in time, but with the ultimate aim of the eternal tortures of hell. He looks at humanity, those originally made in the image of God, with absolute hatred; his only way of attacking God is to attack his image bearers. We who were so honored to be God’s special creation, given dominion over the earth, whom the angelic spirits were to minister to, *how he despises us with every bit of his essence*.

So the devil promises pleasure only to revel in our pain when we listen to him. He promises freedom, only to gloat over us and mock us when we give in to his temptations, for by such we unwittingly, yet quite willingly, let him enslave us, reducing us to the level of beasts who follow our base and filthy desires. He promises wisdom only to lead us into total folly, for we cannot plead ignorance, knowing full-well the Holy Commandments that we *chose* to break.

Consequently, instead of toying with his temptations, instead of flirting with sin to see how far we can take it without being burned, we should resist him and flee fast and far, for the toying and flirting with sin has already begun the searing of our conscience and with that, as we become increasingly hardened and foolish, our ruin draws ever closer.^{iv} For while afflicting the body in this life is terrible, his main goal is to lead us away from Christ by desiring and delighting in sin and so falling away, or by falling into despair over our sins. For where either willful sin or despair of grace is present, saving faith is absent, and damnation awaits.

Another reality that is put before us in this text, which is rather clearly revealed, yet we subconsciously just try to avoid, is that this boy was oppressed by a demon from *childhood*. Thus this tragic situation illustrates the reality of original sin, that humans are conceived and born in sin and thereby under the devil’s rule and God’s wrath *by nature*.^v Here is a powerful, if heart-

rending example that compels us to see the necessity of Holy Baptism for the littlest ones as no one is righteous before God without His redeeming grace in Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit. Of course, the grace given in Baptism can be lost should a child not be brought up in Christ's Word and Church, putting the child back in Satan's grip since the saving faith given in Baptism was starved and finally lost, dying due to spiritual malnutrition.

Certainly this text reveals that we must not take the demons lightly. The nine disciples ask Jesus, "Why could we not cast it out?"^{vi} They had been given authority to cast out demons yet they failed. Jesus' answer is as enlightening as it is shaming, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."^{vii} Our Lord's answer indicates that some demons are more powerful than others. Where those of greater strength are present, faith in Jesus' promise and authority that He had given them would be tested, challenged. What should they do in such cases? *Pray!*

Pray for the strength of faith to trust in Jesus' Word and promise, to not falter in the face of the enemy, to endure and finally overcome them in the name of the One whom they fear.^{viii} Such prayer would be powerful indeed, calling upon God's strength which would be bestowed upon them by the very promises that they were asking to have greater faith in. It is the letting go of trust in themselves and coming to the Lord in trust in Him and His grace, mercy, and might.

Dear Christians, while we live in this fallen, corrupted and evil world, while we continue our pilgrimage to heaven through the valley of the shadow of death, our dear Lord warns us that Satan is a prowling lion seeking to devour us in body and soul. He and his demons are very real, possessing some, afflicting and oppressing many, including believers. In good times, he leads us to get caught up in the fun and downplay and forget our spiritual needs. In rough times, which he might well be causing,^{ix} he leads us to doubt God's love and to despair of His grace and salvation in the midst of our suffering. Always he is seeking to lure us away by making sin seem okay, reasonable, even good, while making God's Law seem "too much," unnecessary, even wrong. Toy with the occult, trifle with temptations and sin, and only slavery, death, and hell follow.

But Jesus comes in mercy towards sinners, *which includes His wrath against the demons*. They see Him and fear Him, knowing that He brings their doom. The casting out of demons, whether from the bodily possessed, or by releasing sinners from their spiritual slavery through the Word, Baptism, and the Holy Communion, all are great victories over the evil one founded on the cross of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and the power of the indwelling Spirit of God. And on the Last Day the victory will be fully enacted as the devil and demons are cast into the lake of fire forever, and believers shall be afflicted no more for they are in glory and past such.

So keep up the fight, dear Christians. Be in the Word and pray to your crucified and risen Lord for His strength, confident that in Him you not only must, but *can* resist the devil making him flee, that you not only must, but *can* crucify the desires of the sinful nature through which he would allure you and so ensnare and entrap you. For through the lens of the Word you see reality correctly, recognizing Satan's temptations for what they are, lies that harm the body and murder the soul. Jesus has overcome Satan by His cross. You are baptized into Christ, rising to new life with Him in Baptism. Live as one who is alive in the victorious Christ. Amen!

ⁱ Mark 9:19. Scripture quotes are from *The Holy Bible English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ Matthew 10:8; Mark 6:13.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. 1 Corinthians 11:28-30.

^{iv} Cf. 1 Timothy 4:2.

^v Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1-3.

^{vi} Mark 9:28.

^{vii} Mark 9:29.

^{viii} Cf. Matthew's account (17:20) where he records Jesus' saying to them, "Because of your little faith."

^{ix} Just consider Job.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19B)
15 September 2024

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Presentation of the Offering

Lord, may our zeal to help the heathen Be increased for day to day As we plead in true compassion And for their conversion pray. For the many faithful heralds, For the Gospel they proclaim, Let us all be cheerful givers, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, we believe; help our unbelief! Sustain us through the many troubles and trials of this world. When unclean spirits afflict us and those that we love, revive our trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given Your beloved Son the tongue of one who is taught, that He may know how to sustain with a word those who are weary. Prosper in every place the preaching of Your Gospel. By Your Spirit, enable Your pastors to proclaim the Word with clarity and joy, and by the same Spirit open the ears of Your children to believe it with gladness and action. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, guard the tongues of our governing authorities that they may not stumble in what they say, but speak wisely, leading in accord with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, You have promised that “all things are possible for one who believes.” In such faith, we bring before You Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Carol, Don, Todd, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, Marilyn, and all others in need, asking You to grant them health and healing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, remember Teresa Firch. Bless her in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we know that Your Son is near in His Holy Supper, giving in His body and blood His saving righteousness for the forgiveness of sins. Grant repentance and faith to all who come to His table, that they may welcome Him with joy, praying, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**