

Peace Lutheran Church
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 4, 2020

As We Gather..... Mark Batterson, author of Draw the Circle, writes:

We can't dream big without thinking long. We often want God to do things at the speed of light, but in God's kingdom, things happen at the speed of a seed planted in the ground that has to take root before it can bear fruit. This is about trusting His timing—and with the Lord, "A day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8). We need more patience and more persistence.....and that's a byproduct of time and experience.

Today we are reminded to patiently wait for the Lord to go to work.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG (recorded by Praise Team on September 5) "Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone"

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Pastor: Turn again, O God of hosts!

People: Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand planted.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Psalm 80

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your Son, Jesus, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow His guidance, and our reluctance to bear the cross. We acknowledge our sinful nature and know in our hearts that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us for all that is amiss in our lives, as we continually don't do what You would want us to do.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, You call us to work in Your vineyard. Supply us with diligence for tasks in Your kingdom, always rejoicing with those to whom Your Spirit has come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

[Joshua 14:6-12](#)

Reader: Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Reader: “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

MESSAGE

“Think Long”

PRAYER

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

Pastor: For the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we are emboldened to witness to the good news that is ours in Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all the nations of the earth, that there be times of peace; for our own nation that it would seek to bring that which is good and God-pleasing; and for our own community and neighborhood, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For faithfulness to carry out our callings with faithfulness, living each day with hope and confidence as we wait the time of the great and final harvest, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the needs that are specially known to us at this time, including health and family concerns, situations of disability or bereavement, and the changes that are part of human life, (especially.....). With assurance that our petitions are heard, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG (recording from April, 2020)

"How Firm a Foundation"

DISMISSAL