

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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**Welcome!**

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for coffee and snacks after the service. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

***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!

***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.

*Stand*

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.



## FIRST READING

## GENESIS 32:22-30

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

<sup>22</sup>That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup>So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup>Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

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

<sup>27</sup>The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

<sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

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

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 121

*Refrain*



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip,  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
Indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

*Refrain*

The Lord watches over you,  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm,  
he will watch over your life;  
The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

**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.*

<sup>13</sup>I write 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 we have in approaching God: 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 know that we have what we asked of him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**M:** Alleluia. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Alleluia.

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

**LUKE 18:1-8**

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

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup>He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

<sup>4</sup>“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’ ”

<sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

**M:** This is the gospel of our Lord.



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

***HYMN OF THE DAY: WHEN IN THE HOUR OF UTMOST NEED***

***723***

## SERMON

**LUKE 18:1-8**

**Pray Properly Under Pressure**

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **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.**

*Stand*

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

**BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.