

Full Set of Lessons & Prayers

XIV after Pentecost A Proper 18 Labor Day

Weekend 9/6/20

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Readings and Psalm

[Psalm 119:33-40](#)

I desire the path of your commandments. *(Ps. 119:35)*

[Romans 13:8-14](#)

Live honorably as in the day

[Matthew 18:15-20](#)

Reconciliation in the community of faith

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,

because your judgments are good.
⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Prayers of Intercession

When I say, “Lord, in your mercy,” you respond, “**Hear our prayer.**”

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

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches here in Hatfield, and beyond, as together we feed people who are hungry, and provide for basic needs. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships as churches work together. Guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. As fires rage and storms wreak havoc, we pray that you renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, and pollution.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Provide hearts, neighbors and community to the lonely and the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend, we thank you for the ways our work gives us purpose, allows us to serve others, gives us joy, and helps us to find a rightful place among others in our communities.

Sustain us in our work, O God, for through our work you help us to become who we are. Give work to those who need it for their life and sustenance.

We place into your special care, heavenly Father, those whose work is too difficult for them; whose work puts them in grave danger; and those who struggle finding work.

We pray for those overwhelmed with their work, and those without enough work to do.

We place small business owners in your hands, for your care and support in these challenging times.

We pray for those who manage and supervise others, that they may do so with kindness and fairness, and that there may be fair treatment for all who labor:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the offerings we bring.

Our ordinary gifts seem small when we stand in your presence. Multiply the gifts we are able to offer to make them abundant, not merely enough, that you may be seen through us.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear now the prayers of our hearts as we offer them before you both silently and aloud:

Silence for the prayers of people's hearts

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation.

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.

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The LORD look upon you with favor and [little cross here] give you peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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