

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 21

What Do You Think?

God's Good Pleasure!

September 27, 2020



AS WE GATHER

We always want to know why. The rulers of the people wanted to know why Jesus was saying what He said and doing what He did. But Jesus challenged them with His Word and with the prophetic voice of John the Baptist. Why did they not listen, and why did they not repent? Why do we not listen and repent? Jesus told a parable of two sons—one whose words were yes but his heart was no, and the other whose words were no but whose heart said yes. We are called to listen. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and we shall be saved.

It has become commonplace to speak of God as responsible for determining life and death for us. So, we wonder where is God's justice when the innocent suffer or His mercy when tragedy strikes. But the Lord insists He has no pleasure in the death of anyone—not even the sinner who deserves his punishment. God's good and gracious will is that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of His Son. Think how differently we would approach the troubles and trials that affect us and the greater disasters of the world if we took the Lord at His Word and trusted in His will.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Holy Watering One, Fount of Every Blessing, we come to you this afternoon, opening our parched places to receive the springs of living water You offer to us. Most of the time, most of us don't even know we are thirsty. We don't know the deep dehydration that scours our bones and parches our hearts. Sometimes, when our thirst pangs emerge, we draw from the enticing wells of the world's offering of power and profit, which leave us even more empty. Still us, God, so we might listen to You speaking to us, knowing us, seeing us, loving us. Fill us with your Living Water that will transform our spirits and souls into springs that burst forth with life and love for your people, for ourselves, and for our world.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE... We strive to extend the hospitality of Christ to all and to provide worship settings and a range of ministries that respond to diverse spiritual needs and religious backgrounds. The apostle Paul said, "I become all things to all people, in order that I might win some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). We agree with Paul. The gospel is for everyone, and so is the church. So, *"Whatever faiths you have known, – you are welcome here. Whoever you are – you are welcome here. And whatever motivation propelled you through our doors this afternoon . . . you belong here because you are here, and all that you have and all that you are is welcome here."* Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right. Together, let us worship God!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 25:6–7; 147:6*

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love

People: **for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: **according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy,**

innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32* (The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of anyone, so turn to Him.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Psalm 91:11; 103:1* [See *Music Index*]

Leader: He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:1–18* (At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 28:18b*

Leader: Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:23–32* (Which of the two did the will of his father?)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering to The Lord)

CREED Apostle Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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

Leader: As You have promised, Lord, hear Your people when they call, and answer us according to Your mercy.

Almighty Father, You take no pleasure in the death of anyone. As John the Baptist once called a people to repentance and faith, so raise up voices within Your Church today to call a world to turn from their sins and live through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty Father, You have given to us the saving name of Jesus. Continue to bless us with faithful pastors who will preach Jesus Christ and His salvation, and bestow upon us faithful church workers who will serve us in Your name. Bless those now preparing for vocations as pastors, deaconesses, teachers, and all other offices as Your Church has established. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty Father, You are gracious and merciful without end. Deliver us from a spirit of complaint, and keep us from grumbling at Your call to serve You with all that we are and all that we have. Grant us grace to fulfill our baptismal calling where You have placed us and according to the vocations given to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty Father, Your power continues to uphold all things. Give Your blessing to our president, Congress, governor, and state

legislature. Guide all who make, administer, and judge our laws that they be in accord with Your commands and give protection to the unborn, the aged, and the oppressed. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Almighty Father, You know our enemies and those whose purpose is set against Yours. Give Your blessing to all who defend our nation here and abroad and to all emergency personnel and disaster workers who come to our aid in time of need. Guide the nations in the paths of peace and deliver us from terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Almighty Father, You have given us healing, comfort, and peace in Christ, especially in times of illness, affliction, depression, and sorrow. Hear us on behalf of [*names*, and] all who suffer any need. Grant them grace sufficient to sustain them in their hour of trouble and at last deliver them into the perfect rest of Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Almighty Father, You give good gifts to Your people. Keep us from ingratitude and guide us to use the resources entrusted to us for the good of the Kingdom. Accept the tithes and offerings we bring to You this day with the worship of our praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Almighty Father, You have delivered the saints of old into the perfect rest of Your presence. Keep us in faith that we, too, may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life. Help us to remember their example and to be encouraged in the struggles of this mortal life by the way You sustained them to the end. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

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

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.***

SERMON TITLE: _____

BIBLICAL TEXT: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

MAJOR POINTS: _____

WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)



FAITH
Pray

FAITH
Serve