

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Third Class Citizen



The stories in our Gospel today point our attention to a variety of types of people. First, there are sinners. Luke wants us to understand sinners to be rather well-documented types of people, something along the lines of everyone in town knows about “them.”

The second type of people are the righteous. These are people who are striving to find themselves right in comparison to the law. There is a balance they must strike in their life, and they find their success at how righteous, or perhaps even self-righteous they can be. No matter what their lot in life might be, they are constantly measuring themselves up to some arbitrary scale of being righteous and then declaring themselves to have arrived. They are the ones who look to their own achievements and are happy to tell you all about them!

There is a third class of people in our discussion this morning as well. The third class folks are the outcasts. They don’t fit in, they are the invisible ones. The poor, the lost, the lame, the broken-these all are the ones who fall outside of any definition that the Pharisees even begin to work with.

Yet Jesus comes to break into the discussion to show that these are the people God cares about as well. Just because we might not “see” them, does not lessen their importance to God. All of the “handles” we might place upon ourselves come from the understanding of exactly what **WE** have done in our lives. What if that simply doesn’t matter to God?

Jesus wonders aloud who will celebrate the fact that the lost find their ways back to God. The third class, powerless, broken, and lost people of the world who cannot make things work out-it is God who rejoices when the lost become found, by the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! They are the ones who matter as well!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Almighty God, we come before your presence this day mindful of our promises to be your people and the many times we have fallen short. We really mean to follow but are so easily distracted by just about anything. The end result of that is the fact we don't do the things we have promised we would do, and we don't even think of the things we should be doing. It is as if our feet are stuck in the mud and we simply can never get a way clear to get out of the mess we are in. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord hears our prayers this day, and has offered to give us the grace of forgiveness. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this morning in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

HYMN 33 Great is Thy Faithfulness 1+3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Alleluia. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Dean Carson

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22–28

New Living Translation (NLT)

The time is coming when the Lord will say to the people of Jerusalem, “My dear people, a burning wind is blowing in from the desert, and it’s not a gentle breeze useful for winnowing grain. It is a roaring blast sent by me! Now I will pronounce your destruction!”

“My people are foolish and do not know me,” says the Lord. “They are stupid children who have no understanding. They are clever enough at doing wrong, but they have no idea how to do right!” I looked at the earth, and it was empty and formless. I looked at the heavens, and there was no light. I looked at the mountains and hills, and they trembled and shook.

I looked, and all the people were gone. All the birds of the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fertile fields had become a wilderness. The towns lay in ruins, crushed by the Lord’s fierce anger. This is what the Lord says: “The whole land will be ruined, but I will not destroy it completely.

The earth will mourn and the heavens will be draped in black because of my decree against my people. I have made up my mind and will not change it.”

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

New Living Translation (NLT)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

New Living Translation (NLT)

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON “God’s Point of View”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN:335 In Christ there is No East or West 1,3,4

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 337 God of Grace and God of Glory 1,4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on muted** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please us a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

INVITE A FRIEND! Our rather informal Fall Membership drive begins in October and will run the balance of the month. Now is the time we can begin to think on who we might want to invite! Our best way to bring others to church with you is to simply invite them. We trust here they will experience the love of Jesus and the reason why we follow Him! If you are not yet a member yourself and would like to tidy up that relationship, just talk with Pastor Jon today!

BIBLE STUDY: Our September Bible Study dates are this coming Wednesday, September 14 and then again on September 21. We do hope you can join us at 10:00 AM each time we gather! A new study will be announced soon!

SPECIAL SERVICE NEXT WEEK: Sunday, September 18 will see a special worship celebration here at OSLC. A portion of our worship will focus upon the celebration of the life of Warren Hope, and then we'll be celebrating fall birthdays as well at a special pot-luck dinner celebrating the time together. In order to accommodate the larger number of people expected next week, we will be rearranging the seating plan of worship to add more seating. We want to let you know ahead of time, so you won't be surprised! It looks to be a great day!

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor

Pastor's email: jonathonkosec@gmail.com

Church Office: (941) 249-5108

Phone: (941) 916-7300