

## Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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### Persistence!



I am struck by the Widow's relentless prayer in both the picture, as well as the reference made by Jesus in the Gospel this morning. The widow's actions just kept coming, despite being brushed off again and again. She was persistent!

Jesus is making a point about prayer. Let me put it another way. Maybe there is a prayer quota. You need to hit the minimum prayer quota and then God will intervene. Along this line of thinking, what if it is just two prayers needing to be said? Would we ever have enough tenacity for two prayers?

I know a family who has been praying daily for another family for many years. The woman was mugged and raped and got AIDS as a result of the rape. Needless to

say, she has been victimized again and again by the first actions, and the disease never lets up. Nor do their prayers. A prayer team sends email reminders to each other to share their journey of prayer together. They just keep doing it, not for their own glory, but for the fact they know God will act to redeem this broken situation. God always does!

Jesus wants the disciples (the twelve and others who follow like us) to always pray and never give up. This will involve trust, faith, confidence, and persistence, to say the least. Yet what else are we going to do? We pray into broken situations that only God can resolve, and we do it daily, and we do it until it is resolved. That's what Jesus invites us to do today.

Have that kind of confidence! If you ask, and don't get a quick answer, just keep asking!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

### GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

### CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

**ALL: 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 303 Softly and Tenderly 1,4

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Alleluia. The word of God is living and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.**

**FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:27-34**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

“The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will greatly increase the human population and the number of animals here in Israel and Judah. In the past I deliberately uprooted and tore down this nation. I overthrew it, destroyed it, and brought disaster upon it. But in the future I will just as deliberately plant it and build it up. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

“The people will no longer quote this proverb:

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste.’ All people will die for their own sins—those who eat the sour grapes will be the ones whose mouths will pucker.

“The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the Lord.

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the Lord.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the Lord. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

**THE SECOND LESSON: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them

whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON "A Question of Faith"

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 456 In the Garden 1+3**

**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

All are invited to come together around this table as those who belong to the household of Christ, brothers and sisters who in our baptized lives live out the death and resurrection of Jesus. The family of the reborn and the reconciled, who inhabit a universe of grace. It is our Lord's Table, you are welcomed here!

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 585 Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing 1+3**

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**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.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Our Bible Study on the book of Nehemiah continues this week on Wednesday, October 19th. We do hope you can join us at 10:00 AM. Don't miss it!

**OUR ATTENDANCE BOOKS** are an important way for us to track our attendance each week. We will take a moment or two at the beginning of worship to complete those books, so we have the information we need. When you get the book, sign in, and then pass it on to your neighbor!

**FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!** Considering membership? If you have been worshipping with us for a while and are not a member but you would like to become one, then we hope you consider this your invitation to do exactly that. Just talk with Pastor Jon today!

**INTERESTED IN SERVING ON OUR CHURCH COUNCIL?** There are three positions that the Nominating Committee will be seeking to fill later this year as we prepare for 2017. If you need more information about what positions are open, speak to Pastor Jon or our President Dean Carson for more information!

**NEW LCMC LOGO SHOWN BELOW** At the recent LCMC Annual Gathering in Denver Colorado, the new LCMC logo and Website was revealed. We thought we would share the image this morning.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

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

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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*There's New Life Here!*