

Pastor's Bible Study

October 19, 2025

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)

#507 "Holy, Holy, Holy"



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Read Genesis 32:22-30

- Describe the following events from Jacob's life that lead up to today's pivotal text.
 - Genesis 25:23-26
 - Genesis 27:18-27a
 - Genesis 31:19-21
 - Genesis 32:3-8
- Considering the context that surrounds this reading, who might Jacob have thought he was wrestling with?
- At what point does Jacob realize the identity of his opponent?

4. Why did Jacob refuse to let go of God until He blessed him? Read Genesis 28:13-17.

5. Why does God ask Jacob what his name is and then immediately change it to Israel?

6. What does this story teach us about “struggles” we may have with God?

Read Luke 18:1-8

7. For what purpose does Jesus tell this parable? See Romans 12:12.

8. Describe the contrast between the two characters in this story.

9. Why does the unrighteous judge grant the widow’s request? What is his point?

10. In Luther’s meaning to the Third Petition of the Lord’s Prayer (Thy will be done...), he writes, “The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.” What is the point of persistent prayer?

11. In the final verse of the text, Jesus asks, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Commenting on this verse, Harold Buls writes, “This question shows us what this parable is really all about. What caused the widow to persist in coming to the judge? Her conviction that justice was on her side. What causes a Christian to endure to the end? The conviction that God is for him in Christ Jesus and that this has been so from all eternity. That is the true saving faith. Only the true saving faith can cause a person to cry to the Lord day and night.”

12. What assurance does God give us about the prayers of His chosen ones (elect)? See Romans 8:26-28.

Devotional Thought (The Lutheran Study Bible)

Alone and faced with danger, Jacob finds God to be his adversary. Yet faithful Jacob wrestles and receives a new name and God’s blessing. It does not always seem that God is on our side. Sometimes He causes Christians to bear trials, temptations, and suffering, i.e., the cross. Yet, this is not to destroy us, but to strengthen us and finally bless us. Christian faith clings to God’s Word of mercy in Jesus Christ (TLSB, 68).

Closing Prayer

Lord, in Baptism, you have promised to be my God. Grant to me what You see that I need. Amen.