

“Mightier Than the Thorn”

Date: 07/04/2021

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

Verse to Remember:

But the Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Points to Ponder

1. What do the people from other countries typically remark about Americans?
2. What is the main reason we have all that we enjoy?
3. What happens when a nation or a person start to rely on themselves?
4. Why did God allow Paul to “suffer”?
5. Who is ultimately in charge?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
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10:45 a.m. Sunday, July 4, 2021
“Mightier Than the Thorn” 2 Corinthians 12:1–10



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

Independence Day

10:45 a.m. Sunday July 4, 2021

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Elders: Tim Draube **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Ushers: Mike Popken Team

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf, Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump,
Rev. Paul Flo, Charles Cortwright

Reader: Frank Tenuta

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER Today, our nation celebrates its place as the land of the free and the home of the brave. At times, this reality causes us to thump our chest to let the world know how great we are. The apostle Paul, too, could claim his place among the greats. Paul was "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ" (Philippians 3:5-7). Yet, he was not mightier than the thorn. As Paul followed Jesus, he was plagued by a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked God to take it away, and God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). So, too, God's grace is sufficient for us no matter where this life takes us, because when we are weak, then we are strong.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION "Knowing You"

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
all this world reveres and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss,
spent and worthless now compared to this.

Refrain: **Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,**
 There is no greater thing.
 You're my all, You're the best,
 You're my joy, my righteousness, and I love You, Lord.

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
to be found in You, and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
All surpassing gift of righteousness. (refrain)

Oh, to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live and never die. (refrain)

(Words/music by Graham Kendrick, 1997 Make Way Music, Ltd, Integrity Music, used by permission CCLI 11440148 and 20162974)

The Benediction

The Going Out Song "God Bless Our Native Land"

1. My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!
2. **God Bless our native land; Firm may it ever stand** Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Do thou our country save
By thy great might.
3. Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be
bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.
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And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

I will rise when He calls my name;
No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings;
Before my God fall on my knees, and rise. I will rise, I will rise.

(Words & music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Louie Giglio & Matt Maher, sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

Invitation with Confession and Absolution

P: Concerning the Lord's Supper, Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:27–29
"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess to You our pride, arrogance, and boasting. Forgive us for all our sins in our thoughts, words, and works for the sake of Jesus, who "made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. For Jesus' sake, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you for all of your sins of thoughts, words, and works in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

INVITATIONAL SONG ("Praise Team):

**He said come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been redeemed
Take your place beside the Savior now
Sit down and be set free
Come to the table**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences 1 Corinthians 10:12–13; Hebrews 4:15–16

P: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

C: God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

C: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Opening Song "Days of Elijah"

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord.

And these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trials, of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Chorus: Behold, He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in Your world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard, declaring the Word of the

Lord." (chorus)

There's no god like Jehovah, There's no god like Jehovah,
There's no god like Jehovah, There's no god like Jehovah (repeat 3 times)

(Chorus 2 times)

Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee, and out of Zion's hill salvation comes.
(Words & music by Robin Mark, 1999 Hosanna/Integrity Music, used by permission CCLI License 11440148 and 20162974)

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1–7 (From shame to joy)

<p>¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's</p>	<p>favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;</p>
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that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶but you shall

be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. ⁷Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

The Epistle 2 Corinthians 12:1–10 (Paul

boasts in his weaknesses.)

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

sees in me or hears from me.

³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.

⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he

¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel Luke 22:24–30

(The one who serves is the greatest.)

²⁴A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁷For who is the greater, one who

²⁸“You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “Word of God Speak”

I'm finding myself at a loss for words, And the funny thing is, it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard, But to hear what You say. (chorus)

(chorus)

Word of God, speak

Would you pour down like rain,

Washing my eyes to see shout Your majesty,

To be still and know that You're in this place?

Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness?

Word of God, speak.

I'm finding myself in the midst of You, Beyond the music, beyond the noise.

All that I need, is to be with You, And in the quiet, I hear Your voice. (chorus)

(2002 Wordspring Music & Songs from the Indigo Room, Simpleville Music, INC. used by permission, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

Baptism: Rosalie Holland

The Word “Mightier Than the Thorn” 2 Corinthians 12:1–10

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul’s members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Psalm 61:8 –So will I ever sing praises to Your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

Offertory “I Will Rise”

There's a peace I've come to know, though my heart and flesh may fail.
There's an anchor for my soul. I can say, "It is well."

Jesus has overcome, and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won;

He is risen from the dead. And I will rise when He calls my name;

No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings;

Before my God fall on my knees, and rise. I will rise,

There's a day that drawing near when this darkness breaks to light,
And the shadows disappear, and my faith shall be my eyes.

Jesus has overcome, and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won;

He is risen from the dead. And I will rise when He calls my name;

No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings;

Before my God fall on my knees, and rise. I will rise,