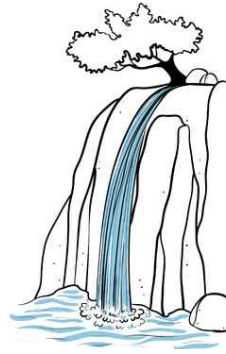


6 September 2020
14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.

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*We have been
drowned
("buried") with
Christ in Baptism
and then raised
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Child of God.*

Matt. 18

Collect

Oh Lord, let Your merciful ear be open to the prayers of your humble servants that what they ask be in accord with Your gracious will. Through Jesus Christ Your Son Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever

Introit

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,* whose sin is | covered. **Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,* and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.** For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away* through my groaning | all day long. **For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;* my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;* I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin. **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;*surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;* you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance. **Glory to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.** Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,* whose sin is | covered.

Readings

Old Testament/Ezekiel 33:7–9. Epistle/Romans 13:1–10. Gospel/Matthew 18:1–20

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

- True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, "you will never enter the kingdom of heaven," but whoever is humbled like a little child will be "the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3–4). Though in our sin we deserve to be "drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned ("buried") with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God.
- The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7–9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10).
- In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we "pay to all what is owed to them" (Rom. 13:7) and we "owe no one anything, except to love each other" (Rom. 13:8).

Stewardship

Matthew 18:4 – "(Jesus said), 'Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'"

What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly, Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is *childish*.

We are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts – with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we'll take His advice!

Sermon Notes

+ Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost +
Take Care with the Little Ones Matthew 18:4-6, 10.

Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me. "These little ones believe in me. It would be best for the person who causes one of them to lose faith to be drowned in the sea with a large stone hung around his neck....."Be careful not to despise these little ones. I can guarantee that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father, who is in heaven.

Becoming like a little child, welcoming the little ones and protecting their relationship with God cannot happen without the transforming power and presence of the Holy Spirit who opens the Kingdom of heaven for all believers.

1. **Jesus' followers become like Little Ones**
 - a. Characterized by childlike qualities
 - b. Such are greatest in the Kingdom of heaven
2. **Jesus' followers welcome Little Ones in His Name**
 - a. Open to new life: physical birth and spiritual birth from above
 - b. Is Jesus Christ welcome in your home, church, community?
3. **Jesus' followers are careful to protect the faith of Little Ones**
 - a. Terrible consequences for those who cause loss of faith
 - b. Their angels see the face of My Father in heaven

Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

We live in a time when rights are demanded. We are very protective of the things we believe are owed to us. Freedom of speech, worship, religion, press, property, and so on... these rights which we insist be given to us and never denied. Who among us cannot name our Miranda rights? Sometimes we forget that what we call rights were earned by those who paid for them in blood. Like the nation that forgets these rights and freedoms came at great cost and must be defended by every generation, we who call ourselves the children of God forget that this right had to be earned for us by our Lord Jesus Christ. It was not always our right – not until He was incarnate, until He suffered, and until He died that we might have the right to be called the children of God.

There is one right you cannot afford to forget or take casually – that is the right to be called a child of God, a son or daughter to the Most High. This is the gift to us that comes from the manger, from the Word made flesh, from the Cross. From His fullness we have received grace upon grace, to any and all who will receive Him, who believe in His name, He has given the right to become the children of God – born not of flesh and blood nor the desire of man but the love and desire of God... We the prodigals who had no right are given the right to belong, to be at His table, to be released of our sinful past, to grasp hold of our eternal future, and to know the richness and the fullness of the grace that no longer calls us outcasts but the family of God. When Christ came down from heaven to wear our human flesh and blood and be part of our world of sin and death, He was making it possible for us to become citizens of heaven, members of His family the Church, for today, for all of time, and for eternity. We belong to Him: Children of God, adopted through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

pastoralmeandering.org. Dec. 24, 2009

Prayer of the Church. 14th Sunday after Pentecost. 6 September 2020.

Blessed Lord, You have promised that where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant our supplications.

O Lord, grant to Your people courage, that with boldness we may speak Your name in witness and warn sinners so that they may come to faith and repentance and so enjoy the forgiveness of their sins. Give Your Church wisdom and strength by Your Spirit, that she may be steadfast and unmovable in Your Word and truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, be present among Your people to serve us with the gifts of Your grace, and grant that we may receive them with joy. Give to us faithful pastors and church workers who will minister to us in Your name and strengthen our faith and life together as Your baptized people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, give to us good and honest leaders who will govern according to Your Word and will. Give us grace, that we may not fail to pray for those who lead us and to act as good citizens and good neighbors to one another. Give peace to the nations, and bring an end to violence, prejudice and racism. Guide us to know and respect all life, from the infant in the womb to the youth beginning maturity, and from the mature to the aged. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You send rain upon the earth and turn the seeds into plants rich with fruit for harvest. Accept our thanks and praise for Your continued goodness in providing a good harvest and food for all. Give us wisdom so that we may use Your resources wisely and extend Your care to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You urge us to give special care and guidance to the young and those new to the faith. Give us grace, that we may not lead them into temptation or sin but guard their faith by making known to them the full counsel of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You are the strength of the weak, the healing of the sick, the comfort of those who grieve and the peace of those near death. Hear us on behalf of _____, that they may be sustained in their afflictions, comforted in life and death, and delivered to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have given the day for work and the night for rest. Bless all honest labor and industry, artists and artisans, and those in caring professions. Keep us in humility, and guard us against pride and arrogance. Give to us a spirit of generosity, that we may share with others the blessings that flow from our labors. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, teach us to forgive others as You have forgiven us and bless the fellowship of the forgiven, that we may be united in doctrine and life. Bless us as we commune today upon the body and blood of our Savior, and help us to keep in holy lives what we will receive upon our lips in this Holy Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, deliver us from pandemic and pestilence, from disaster and danger, and from a sudden death, that kept in faith, we may be preserved through this mortal life and in death be received into the arms of Your mercy and into the blessed rest of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us, O Lord, who cry to You in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Hymns

Hosanna	NewSong 80
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	686
My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker	820
Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend	866
Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared	622
Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go	920

Prayers This Week for Brothers and Sisters at Concordia

Monday: Ingrid Hite	Thursday: Ola Kite
Tuesday: JaDee & Genie Huber	Friday: Tom & Alice Kyner
Wednesday: Tom & Callie Keeler	Saturday: Carol Lane

This Week at Concordia

Sunday, September 6	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, September 7 <i>Labor Day!!</i>	1:00 p.m. Members-in-Touch
Tuesday, September 8	
Wednesday, September 9	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast at Burger King on Clinchfield Street
Thursday, September 10	
Friday, September 11	
Saturday, September 12	8:30 a.m. Church Work Day 9:30-11:30 a.m. Convention of States Meeting
Sunday, September 13 <i>Special Service with the Federwitz Family</i>	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship Service *Voter's Meeting following the Worship Service*