



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

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October 19, 2025  
*19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

### **Announcements**

**Juice boxes** are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

**New socks** are being collected for the Downtown Mission on an on-going basis. Bring them to a Sunday service or call the office to arrange a drop-off.

**Bakers sought!** Trinity invites bakers to offer their wares for the bake sale table at the Advent Crafters' Market and Cafe on November 29. If you can provide something for the table (whatever your specialty), please contact the church office and we'll provide you with information and packaging for the items. The event is the final major fundraiser of 2025 and the funds we raise will help support Trinity and its ministries into the new year.

### **Coming Up**

**November 2** – All Saints Service when we remember the saints in our lives who have gone on to the kingdom. You are invited to bring a candle to light and place before the altar. Don't have a candle? Don't worry. We'll have some available.

### **Also Happening**

**November 8** – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m. **Donations desperately needed!**

#### **We Remember in our Prayers**

**In Residence:** Cordelle

**Members:** Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Brenda

**Friends & Family:** Anna, Asdis, Dot, Jean, Ken, Randy, Roger, Rose, Jeff

### **Introduction to the day**

*Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

## Hymns

WOV #788 Glory to God

ELW # 624 Jesus still lead on

ELW # 742 What a friend we have in  
Jesus

ELW #583 – Take my life, that I may be

ELW # 720 We are called

## Prayer of the day

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**

## First reading: Genesis 32:22-31

<sup>22</sup> The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then



the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

## Psalm: 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes <sup>1</sup> to the hills;  
from where is my <sup>1</sup> help to come?  
<sup>2</sup> **My help comes <sup>1</sup> from the Lord,  
the maker of heav- <sup>1</sup> en and  
earth.**  
<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your <sup>1</sup> foot be  
moved  
nor will the one who watches over

you <sup>1</sup> fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keep- <sup>1</sup> er of Israel  
will neither slum- <sup>1</sup> ber nor  
sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches <sup>1</sup> over you;  
the Lord is your shade at <sup>1</sup> your  
right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike <sup>1</sup> you by  
day,  
nor the <sup>1</sup> moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you <sup>1</sup> from all  
evil  
and will <sup>1</sup> keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your  
going out and your <sup>1</sup> coming in,  
from this time forth  
for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.**

**Second reading:** 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you  
have learned and firmly believed,  
knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and  
how from childhood you have known  
sacred writings that are able to instruct  
you for salvation through faith in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God  
and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for  
correction, and for training in  
righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the person of  
God may be proficient, equipped for  
every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup> In the presence of God and of  
Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living  
and the dead, and in view of his  
appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly  
urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be  
persistent whether the time is favorable  
or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and  
encourage with the utmost patience in

teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when  
people will not put up with sound  
teaching, but, having their ears tickled,  
they will accumulate for themselves  
teachers to suit their own desires <sup>4</sup> and  
will turn away from listening to the truth  
and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you,  
be sober in everything, endure suffering,  
do the work of an evangelist, carry out  
your ministry fully.



**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about  
their need to pray always and not to lose  
heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, “In a certain city there  
was a judge who neither feared God nor  
had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city  
there was a widow who kept coming to  
him and saying, ‘Grant me justice  
against my accuser.’ <sup>4</sup> For a while he  
refused, but later he said to himself,  
‘Though I have no fear of God and no  
respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this  
widow keeps bothering me, I will grant  
her justice, so that she may not wear me

out by continually coming.’ ”<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

## Sermon

### “Persistent prayer”

May God’s grace, the free gift, that goes beyond all understanding, be with you this morning and always.

Prayer has become part of politics ... especially on the other side of the creek.

Elected officials make a show of themselves in prayer ... prayers are offered when incidents of mass shootings occur.

Luke’s passage today can easily be seen as support for offering “thoughts and prayers” whenever some tragic event or circumstance happens.

Because if you pray enough and hard enough, God’s gonna listen. It;s all in God’s hands.

It seems like it has become something you offer as a matter of course rather than live into the responsibilities of a life of faith.

It’s one of those phrases that diminishes prayer and makes it seem like an empty gesture.

But prayer ... done as a matter of faith ... of community ... is not empty. It is a moment when love is given voice.

Prayer is an intimate moment between a person and God. It is a moment of communion. It is when the needs of the world are made known.

Prayer is at the centre of today’s story.

Jesus and the disciples are still on their way to Jerusalem.

Last week, we heard about the grateful Samaritan who was cleansed and made well by his faith.

Between now and then, Jesus tells the disciples the days of the Son of Man will come to an end and that they will be left waiting for his return.

He has just told them that the Kingdom of God will be among them ... that people will look for his return in the wrong places.

This morning, Jesus tells the disciples that faithful prayer is important while they wait for him to return. Then he shares a parable about a widow and an unjust judge.

This widow is bold and relentless in her quest to have justice ... she demands justice.

The widow presses the judge to act ... he refuses and she presses ... and he refuses ... and she presses ... until he finally does act.

Biblical judges were considered to be wise and reputable people who had been commissioned by God to “shepherd God’s people.”

These were not supposed to be plumb gigs handed out as a political favour.

The Torah ... which is made up of the first five books of the Bible ... demands that the needs of orphans ... widows ... and strangers ... be given special care.

But there is something off with the judge in the parable. He doesn't follow the guidance of the sacred text.

He refuses to be attentive to God's word ... he doesn't respect the people who appear before him ... justice was just a throw-away word to him.

This judge seems completely unfit for the responsibilities he has been handed.

It makes you wonder whose nephew he is to get the job.

A certain widow kept appearing before him ... pressing the judge to grant her justice.

Her persistence finally pays off ... but not because her argument was valid or the judge finally decided to do his job.

After another of her visits, the judge said to himself:

"Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming."

Exasperated, the unjust judge gave in to the widow.

One takeaway from this parable is that justice is possible for those who persistently pursue it.

If we pray long enough and hard enough, things will improve. Of course,

you can say that if things don't change, then you didn't pray enough.

Luke is the only one of the gospel writers to share this parable.

His gospel focuses on the discipleship ... how those claiming the mantle of disciple should act and where their hearts should lie as they await the coming of the kingdom.

Prayer is a mark of their faith.

If we see ourselves as the widow, then this passage is about the need for persistent prayer. That we are to pray frequently ... determinedly ... and insistently for justice for others and for ourselves.

God, then, is the judge who must be nagged into action ... God's goodness eventually comes through if we are persistent.

And that ... to some ... misses the point of prayer.

Consider that whenever there are incidents of mass violence that political leaders offer "thoughts and prayers," but never seem to act to address the causes or the means to carry out these violent acts.

Francisco Garcia, an Anglican priest in the U.S., wrote:

"If this is all prayer is, then it is essentially meaningless, and we have reason to be apathetic and angry about calls for prayer in response to perpetual violence and injustice."

"If this is all prayer is, then it is essentially meaningless, ..."

Meaning comes when prayers lead to acts of mercy.

This parable encourages disciples to pray continually ... to pray with conviction ... even if things seem dark and dismal.

Be persistent in prayer and God will eventually come around and take care of things.

But with this view, then, the unjust judge is God.

It calls us to continually petition God and through prayer to see injustice addressed in the world. Persistence changes the unjust judge's mind.

God is unjust? Does that seem right to you?

God turns a deaf ear to the needs of the world ... unless we annoy God to the point of taking action. God takes action just to shut us up? Does this sound like the God we praise?

Garcia ... and others ... believe that prayer is just part of our relationship with God. Prayer doesn't relieve disciples of their responsibilities to others.

Prayer gives voice to the issue ... it gives voice to the needs of the world ... it brings clarity to a situation ... but that clarity should be followed by action ... action that leans into grace.

So, now, let's look at this story from a different angle.

What if we place ourselves on the other side of the judge's table?

What if we see God in the widow?

This turns the story on its ear.

If we look at the story from this perspective, then we are the unjust judges.

We sit in judgement ... viewing the world from a distance ... hearing the pleas of others and ... refusing to be involved or to act in a way that brings healing and mercy to those who have been wounded by the world.

We allow injustice to survive and even thrive.

We have no fear of God or respect for anyone ... to borrow from Jesus' parable.

We become the judges who offer silence or dismissal rather than guidance and action.

In this view, then, God is the one being persistent ... coming to us again and again ... calling us to recognize the wrongs that exist ... to act for justice in the world.

God persistently comes to us to crack open hearts that may have become hardened.

God calls us into reflective praying ... prayers that come through deep consideration of the word and the world ... prayers that place others at their heart ... prayers that go beyond just simple words.

We are called to pray in a way that leads to the kingdom coming near ... that places the Kingdom of God within us not just among us.

God continually comes to us like the widow ... telling us that justice is needed ... that mercy is lacking ... where creation is suffering ... and calling for us

to live into the love we have received and are to share with the world.

This seems to be a more grace-filled approach. ... That God comes to us again and again out of a sense of love ... calling us ... insisting that we too love the world so that we are stirred to work for justice and offer mercy.

God as the widow comes to us ... prods us ... nags us ... into advocacy ... into ministries of feeding and healing ... into affirming a person's worth ... into welcoming all from the margins into community.

Prayer, then, ... persistent prayer ... is essential to a faithful life.

Prayer ... as a community activity ... is a loving act of faith ... one that through God's actions ... God's persistent love ... that flow through each of us carries grace into the world.

And that keeps grace at the forefront of the life of the world.

So, may we always and persistently pray that we make grace known to the world through our words and through our faithful actions.

**AMEN**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and

the power and the glory, forever and ever.

**AMEN**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God,  
Father, + Son,  
and Holy Spirit,  
bless ye now and forever.

**AMEN**



### **More Announcements**

**In response to requests** from members, Trinity accepts offerings via eTransfer. You must set up the eTransfer information in your bank account. The email address to be used is [trinitylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheran@gmail.com). In the "comment" section, please indicate: "Trinity - General Offering" And remember to put your name and address so we can provide a tax receipt.



# **Advent Crafter's Market & Cafe**

**Saturday, November 29**

**10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Check out the more than a dozen artists and artisans offering  
Christmas gifts and items!  
Enjoy lunch at the Trinity Café  
Peruse the Trinity Bake sale offering the specialties of the Trinity folks

Rent a table, volunteer, bake something for the sale or just take in the event!  
*See Dagmar or Pastor Chris for details*