

ILCW Year-C Lessons for the  Second Sunday after Pentecost

OLD TESTAMENT **I Kings 8:22,23,41-43** **NIV** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven 23 and said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below - you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. ... 41 "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name - 42 for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm - when he comes and prays toward this temple, 43 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

Epistle

Galatians 1:1-10 Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead - 2 and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! 10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

Luke 7:1-10 When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
2nd Sunday of Pentecost  *Faith of a Foreigner*
June 2nd 2013  9:30am



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 16 Lazarus sits at the door of the rich man's house begging for food and having his wounds licked by dogs.

Image courtesy of Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/DIA/detail.cfm?ID=4830>

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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PHONE (863) 859-3400— www.osllakeland.com

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

June 2, 2013 Pentecost-2(C) 1st Sunday of Ordinary Time

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, our pastor would be glad to share information about our church with you and discuss membership at your convenience. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until the pastor can speak with you.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the visitor, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE (See insert.)

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see **page 15**. Feel free to leave the service folder insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	442 (5v)	Lord of Glory, Who Has Bought Us
Hymn of Day	396 (6v)	Oh, for a Faith That Will Not Shrink
Sermon	Luke 7:1-10	(Spot the) "Foreigner's Faith"
Offering Hymn	644 (1v)	Praise God From Whom All Blessings...
Communion Hymn	316 (5v)	O Living Bread from Heaven
Closing Hymn	399 (5v)	Thee Will I Love My Strength My Tower

PROPERs for THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY JUNE 2

INTROIT: I have trusted in Your mercy, my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me. How long O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? ...from **Psalm 13**

COLLECT: O God, the Strength of all who put their trust in You: mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may please You both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GRADUAL: I said, Lord, be gracious to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You. Blessed is he who considers the poor! The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. Alleluia! Alleluia! Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. Alleluia! ...from **Psalm 41**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

I Kings 8:22,23,41-43 "All People of the Earth may know Your Name"(LORD).
Galatians 1:1-10 False gospels are really No Gospels at all.
Luke 7:1-10 (Jesus commends:) "The Faith of this Foreigner."

SERMON: Text: Luke 7:1-10 THEME: "THE FAITH ... OF A FOREIGNER!"

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Delores (Dee) Kurczewski
Richard Birkenmeier	(past member) Dan Elwing
Jonathan Jumper (grandson of Elaine Jones)	Jeanette Kubly
Tyler Kirby (nephew of Andrea Sawyer)	Mariah Sawyer
Buster (& Patty) Brewbaker	Ann Wentz

Volunteers	This week	Next week
Greeter	Don & Bev Weinke	John & Orpha Weber
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	Bev Weinke	Bev Weinke

COFFEE & TREATS are generally served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving. We are **IN NEED OF SERVERS** for future Sundays. If you can help, **PLEASE SIGN UP**. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	32	38
Communion Attendance	--	29
Sunday Bible Class	12!	9
Thursday Bible Class	10	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 6/2	8:30 am	Bible Study
Today is:	9:30 am	Divine Worship (with Lord's Supper)
Pentecost2(C)Sun.	11:00 ff..	Food, Fun & Fellowship
Tuesday, 6/4	6:00 pm	Catechism Class with Prescott
Thursday, 6/6	6:30 pm	Bible Study at Madeline Beck's
Saturday, 6/8	1:30 pm	Catechism Class with Sawyers
Sunday, 6/9	8:30 am	Bible Study
	9:30 am	Worship (no Holy Communion)
	10:30 ff..	Fellowship time: Drinks and Treats

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807, John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule Notes - for today and this week

Have a Blessed week all, & See you all next Sunday!

TRINITY1(C) Luke 7:1-10 "(SPOT THE) FAITH OF A FOREIGNER" 06.02.13

INTRODUCTION This man was a foreigner. A stranger in a strange land. A soldier in the Roman occupation army stationed in Capernaum. He had a servant who was terribly sick and about to die. He was desperate to do something. **He'd heard that Jesus was coming.** He'd heard of Jesus' power over various diseases and demons, how He healed people with nothing more than a word. He trusted Jesus and the authority of His words.

Today we consider the faith of this foreigner who trusted Jesus' words.

(reREAD TEXT, v.6b,7 & 9,10) The foreigner always had a place among God's people. Jehovah is not a national god. The Lord and Creator of all belongs to **no nation, no** particular people, **no** ethnic or cultural group. ... This runs **counter to the modern myth of multiculturalism** that is being taught today, especially in our public schools. This myth would have you believe that God and culture go together, so that every culture ought have its own god and its own religion. To mess with someone's gods, to suggest that their beliefs might be falsely based or just plain wrong, is considered politically incorrect and culturally insensitive.

From the multi-culturalist point of view, Christianity is a **white, northern European** religion for mostly white northern Europeans ... **wherever** they may be in the world. But in reality, the Christian faith is **trans-cultural** and **trans-national**. It knows no national boundaries, it flies no flag, it favors **no one group** of people. It is not an ethnic group, a political group, a social group. It is the same Christian faith, the same good news of Jesus, the same worship of the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit, whether in N. America, S. America, Africa, Asia, Europe. That's what we mean when we confessed our Christian faith last week (Athanasian) as **"universal."** It is a universal faith, the **same all over the world.**

Christ came **to save all people.** God doesn't discriminate between people. With Him there is neither Jew nor Gentile, black or white, Australian, Asian, African or American. That's one of the points Luke is making by telling this story. Christ came to save all, including a Roman soldier stationed in Galilee and his servant. And that is a **great comfort to us,** because if Christ didn't come to save all, we couldn't be sure He came to save **us.** (US, AU,...)

The foreigner becomes as example of faith. Jesus took note of his faith and said that He hadn't seen such faith in all of Israel.

1. "EVIDENT" faith (by fruits = works) The centurion's (**unselfish**) faith was shown by his **great works.** *"He loves our nation and built our synagogue."* How **strange** for a Roman soldier in a foreign land to be so gracious and generous! But how **strange-ER** that **the Jews** should regard him **so highly!** His faith caused him to be a different kind of soldier. **It affected his work.** This wasn't a once-a-week for one hour in church kind of faith. It affected every day of his life, the decisions he made, how he went about his day to day business. His faith was **active in works of love.**

(And, like the Centurion) We **don't** do good works in order to **earn God's favor.** We do them **because we believe** that we have God's favor

thanks to **Jesus' death** and **Resurrection.** The soldier's faith was active in works of love for the people of Capernaum. He is a shining example of what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples, *"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

The fact that we aren't saved by our works doesn't mean we don't do them. We do. We just do them **whenever** and **wherever** and **for whomever** God gives us the opportunity.

2. "HUMBLE" faith The centurion's faith was **humble.** He didn't brag about all the good things he has done and why Jesus should help him. He confesses his sin and his unworthiness. *"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof."* The **Jewish elders said that he was worthy** because of his works. That's how **the Law** looks at worthiness. But the soldier knew that all the charity in the world could not make him worthy to stand before Jesus.

Faith is (always) humble. It recognizes that **God is holy,** and I am **not** holy. Faith says, *"I don't deserve to be in the God's presence. I have nothing to offer God but brokenness and sin. I have no prior claim on God. I have no right to His favor. There is nothing in me that He should help me. I am not worthy to have God come under my roof, and I am not worthy to come under His. No matter how many good works I may have done - given generously to charity, helped build church buildings, helped people in all sorts of ways - apart from Jesus and his forgiveness, even my good works would condemn me."* (PICTURE of **Uniformed** Policeman member of church)

3. "UNWORTHY" faith (& works) **Good works do NOT make us worthy before God.** It's the other way around: **God makes us worthy to do good works.** He **gives us faith** in Jesus Christ. Remember the **Small Catechism** on the Lord's Supper. What makes us worthy to eat and drink the Lord's body and blood, *"faith in these words - given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."* Faith in the words of Jesus - that He is ours, that **His death** is ours, His **life is ours,** that eternal life is ours because of His suffering and death. Christ is our worthiness. **He makes us worthy** to stand before the Father, to come to Him in prayer, to worship Him. He **covers us with his holiness.** We are worthy **because He is worthy.**

4.a "TRUSTING (in the Word)" faith The centurion not only confesses his unworthiness, he also confesses **his trust in Jesus' words,** that His Word was a word that came with authority. The Centurion knew what authority was all about. He was both a man **under** authority, and had one hundred men under **his** authority. He knew how words spoken with authority make things happen. *"I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes. To another, 'Come' and he comes. To my servant, 'Do this' and he does it."* That's how it works when you have authority. Your words have **weight.**

4.b Authority "OF GOD" The centurion knew that Jesus' words came with **the authority of God.** He knew that Jesus' words could **heal** sicknesses, **cast out** demons, work **miracles.** He believed that Jesus' words could heal his servant, even from a distance. He believed in Jesus and trusted the

authority of His Word. He didn't need to see Jesus. He didn't need to have Jesus come to his home and physically touch his servant. All he needed was a Word from Jesus, and he knew his servant would be healed.

4.c Authority "OF the CROSS" The authority of Jesus is the **authority of His Cross**, of His own suffering and death on our behalf. This healing of the centurion's servant, like all healings Jesus did, cost Him dearly. **It cost Him His own life.** Jesus came into this world to absorb into His own flesh the darkness, the sin, the disease, the death that dog us. He took all these things onto Himself, and He works an **exchange**. He **swaps** sickness for health, sin for righteousness, death for life. He makes things new. He brings in a new creation in which sickness and death and despair have no place. And He does it with His authoritative **Word**.

RESULT When the centurion's friends returned home, they found the servant **"well."** **Not** just pulling through, or turning the corner. **Not** upgraded from critical to fair condition. But up-on-his-feet healthy. That's the authority of Jesus' word at work. **It was a great miracle.** And yet the **greatER** miracle that day was that **a Gentile, a Roman soldier, believed in Jesus and trusted in His word and not his own works.** That's the miracle of **saving faith** - the kind of faith that God reckons (us) as righteous.

CONCLUSION With that **same Word**, Jesus deals with us here today. His Word comes with divine authority, the authority given Him by the Father. *"All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."* When Jesus speaks, He speaks **to us** with the **same divine authority of the Son of God** who loved us and gave Himself up for us.

He speaks "weighty words," words **heavy** with the authority of God. The **same weighty Word** that healed the centurion's servant, that caused the **lame** to walk, the **blind** to see, the **deaf** to hear, the same Word that sent demons fleeing, is that word that gives us the authority to be the children of God. With His Word and by His authority we are baptized, forgiven, fed His body and blood. *"I baptize you." "I forgive you all of your sins." "This is my body, my blood, given for you, for your forgiveness."* Those are **weighty words** of life **directed at you**. You don't need to see Jesus. You only need to **hear His Word**.

"Only say the Word and your servant will be healed." Jesus has spoken His Word. From the Cross to you in **your Baptism**, in the **Absolution**, in His **Supper**. The word says *"You are forgiven, you are free, you are God's people -holy, chosen, precious to Him."* It comes with the authority of the One Who hung on a Cross to save you. **Lord, grant us the faith of the foreigner who trusted your Word. Amen.**

Now, the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen. SDG

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(Trinity1) 2nd Sunday after Pentecost(C)  SERMON
"Faith of a Foreigner"  June 2nd 2013 9:30 am



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Luke 7:1-10 Jesus commends the faith of the Centurion in front of the elders of the Jews.

Courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
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