

Historic Scripture Lessons for the 17th Sunday after Trinity

OLD TESTAMENT I Samuel 2:1-10

NIV Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in Your deliverance. 2 "There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides You; there is no Rock like our God. 3 "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God Who knows, and by Him deeds are weighed. 4 "The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. 5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. 6 "The LORD brings death and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and raises up. 7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth; He humbles and He exalts. 8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them He has set the world. 9 He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; 10 those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king and exalt the horn of His Anointed."

Epistle

Ephesians 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the LORD, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one Hope when you were called – 5 One LORD, one faith, one Baptism; 6 One God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

Historic Gospel

Luke 14:1-11 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, He was being carefully watched. 2 There in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy. 3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" 4 But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, He healed him and sent him away. 5 Then He asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" 6 And they had nothing to say. 7 When He noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, He told them this parable: 8 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

3-Yr Gospel (Sermon Text)

Mark 9:30-37 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, 31 because He was teaching His disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days He will rise." 32 But they did not understand what He meant and were afraid to ask Him about it. 33 They came to Capernaum. When He was in the house, He asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" 34 But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. 35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." 36 He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My Name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the One who sent Me."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS
17th Sunday after Trinity  *Freedom & Humility*

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.OSLLakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✧ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✧ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

September 23rd, 2018 ✧ Trinity-17 Freedom & Humility

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **The LORD bless you.**

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) Hymnal p.5.

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	1 (5v)	Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
<i>Psalm 91</i>	<i>Ps.91 '3v'</i>	<i>Be With Me LORD When I Am in Trouble</i> ↗
Hymn of the Day	370 (4v)	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	<i>441 (6v)</i>	<i>Sing v.1-2 We Give Thee But Thine Own</i>
Third Hymn	628 (5v)	Shepherd of Tender Youth Guiding in...
Closing Hymn	47 (4v)	Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Suggested Bible readings for weekdays after the 17th Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daniel 3:1-30	Daniel 4:1-37	Daniel 5:1-30	Daniel 5:31-6:28	Ezra 1:1-11	Ezra 3:1-13
Heb. 11:17-40	Hebrew 12:1-17	Hebrew 13:1-25	James 1:1-15	James 2:1-13	James 2:14-26

PROPERs for The SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY in TRINITY ✧ SEPTEMBER 23

INTROIT Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD. ...from Psalm 119 (Part 18)

COLLECT LORD, we beseech You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A - - men.

GRADUAL C: Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made, and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth. Alleluia! Alleluia! The Right Hand of the LORD is exalted, the Right Hand of the LORD does valiantly. Alleluia!

...from Psalm 118 (Part 18)

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

O.T. I Samuel 2:1-10	Hannah: "My heart rejoices in the LORD."
Epi. Ephesians 4:1-6	Earnestly preserve the Unity of the Spirit.
Gos. Luke 14:1-11	Jesus teaches Christian Freedom and Humility.

SERMON Text: Mark 9:30-37 **THEME:** "GREAT (FAITH) ... LIKE A CHILD."

Psalm 91 REFRAIN: BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY

Refrain C: ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the LORD Most High, Who abide in the shadow of our God. Say to the LORD: "My Refuge and Fortress, the God in whom I trust."

Refrain C: ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

2. No evil shall befall you, no pain come near, For His angels stand close by your side. Guarding you always and bearing you gently, Watching over your life.

Refrain C: ♪ Be with me LORD, when I am in trouble; Be with me LORD, I pray.

3. Those who cling to the LORD live secure in His love, Lifted high those who trust in His Name. Call on the LORD, He will never forsake you, He will bring you salvation and joy. C: ♪ BE WITH ME LORD, WHEN I AM IN TROUBLE; BE WITH ME LORD, I PRAY.

Today the Choir will sing the Benediction "The LORD Bless You and Keep You..."

PRAYER REQUESTS:	(Member or Relation)	Pray for...
Jim&Elma Hendricks	(moved to SC)Jim's kidneys (almost at end). Elma stress	
Dee Kurczewski	(David) Dee - falls. Rehabbing. David back working	
Carolyn Miner	(Don) Carolyn had a brain bleed stroke. In hospital recovering	
Jon & Andrea Sawyer	Jon's heart, resuming work. Andrea started new work	
Ethel Wendt	(Steve) PTL Ethel had (major) surgery. Recovering well at home	
Barb Wolkens	Barb seriously stiff neck. Doctors don't know cause yet	
James Vanesky & Delores Platt	Both at home rehabbing. We miss them	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Elaine Jones	Barb Wolkens
Treaters	Potluck Brunch	

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	22 / (20)	20 / 17
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	11	9
Sunday Offering & Year-To-Date	\$.	YTD Total \$.

Calendar of Events		
Today, Sep. 23rd	8:30 am	Bible Study NT Themes/Keys: Persecution
Trinity-17 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (NO Communion)
Freedom & Humility	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Potluck Brunch!
Tuesday, 9/25	1:30-3:30	OSL "Game Time" - Activities in hall
Saturday, Sep. 29th	Church Holiday	Michaelmas, St. Michael&All Angels Day
Next Sunday, 9/30	8:30 am	Bible Study Themes/Keys: Reconciliation
Trinity-18 Sunday	9:30 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
L/G: Law & Gospel	10:45 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892.

September 23 ^ ELS 100 Years*Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: 1918-2018



The opening service for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary was conducted on September 24, 1946. Five students were enrolled during the first year. Norman A. Madson, Sr., the first dean of the seminary wrote, "Our own seminary is no longer merely a child of our fond desires, but has become a living reality." The seminary shared classroom space with Bethany Lutheran College, and in a practice still in existence today, professors often taught both in the college and the seminary.

Next Sunday 9/30 Trinity-18 L&G (p.15 L.S.) ♪ Hymns: 262 Ps.91 297 283 373 288

TRINITY-17(P18B) Mark 9:30-37 "GREAT LIKE A LITTLE KID" 09.23.18 OSL

GREAT 2 CROSS As we have been stepping through the Gospel of Mark, we see a progression (with Jesus). In His Ministry, first were great **teaching** showing His great wisdom, great **miracles** showing His great **power**. There was the **Transfiguration**, showing His great **glory**.

PLAIN WORDS And then Jesus began to teach them about the Way of the Cross: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after Three Days He will arise. It doesn't get much plainer and blunter than that, does it? No cryptic sayings, no puzzling parables. Simply a death and on the Third Day, a Resurrection.

SIGNS POINT TO→ Mark tells us that the **disciples did not understand** what Jesus had said, and **they were afraid even to ask Him about it**. Who can blame them, really? What would you have thought at this point? You gave up your livelihood and your life to follow Jesus. You put all your chips on Him. He looks like a Winner, like the real deal of a Messiah, someone who will get the religious job done. He has the teaching and the miracles to back Him up. The crowds are on His side. His popularity is on the rise. The movement appears to be growing, gaining momentum. The deaf hear. The mute speak. The lame walk. Lepers are cleansed. Demons are cast out. The dead are raised. **All the signs were pointing to Jesus**.

CRAZY TALK But then Jesus begins to talk like this about His being **"handed over,"** of being **killed**, and of **rising** from the dead on the Third Day. **Crazy** talk. **Irrational** talk. Not the kind of talk one would expect from a respectable messiah who should be assembling an army and heading to fight holy war in Jerusalem. The disciples are afraid to ask, and they keep it to themselves.

LOSER/S Who would understand such things? Who would have orchestrated things this way? Crucifixion, Resurrection. Not our way. No way. **We go with winners, not** with losers. We go with **successes**, not failures. We go with Number 1, not with also-rans. **That's how the world works**. That's how we work. Winners like to hang with winners. It's why Christianity doesn't play well with winners until they discover they're really losers. Who wants to wake up on **Sunday morning to come to church to confess you're a "poor, miserable sinner"** in need of forgiveness? The world would have you believe you're a winner entitled to your success, entitled to even more. Who wants to line up and declare with St. Paul that he is the "chief of sinners"? No wonder the most popular versions of religions are based on winning not losing, of being a winner not a loser.

OLD ADAM That's **the Old Adam in us**, my friends. The sinful self. The loser who won't admit it, who pretends to be a winner, who tries to go it on his own, being a god, shaking his fist at God, doing it his way, resisting the way of death and Resurrection which is really the only way to eternal life.

LONG WALK It must have been a **long walk back to Galilee**. Like one of those tense car trips where no one is talking but everyone has something to say. I imagine Jesus walking pretty much by Himself, with the others trailing or leading the way. And, **What do you suppose they were discussing?** They were arguing with each other about which one of them was the **greatest?!** *Who was the top dog? Was it Peter, or John? Maybe James the underdog.* It almost boggles our minds to think about it. Jesus had just uncorked the **greatest prophecy of His ministry**, the incredible prediction that He would die and rise again, and instead of discussing and pondering this or asking Jesus about it, the disciples argue over **which one among them is the greatest**.

HONEST/Y And **should we be surprised** with how things are in the church today? I appreciate the honesty of Mark, who delivers the whole eyewitness truth of Peter to us. Through the words of Mark, Peter admits that at this crucial moment in Jesus' work, the disciples, **including Peter**, completely **missed the point and were thinking of their own greatness**. Again, the Old Adam wants to be the winner, not the chief of sinners but just the chief. It's in all of us, the drive to power, to control, to be the lead dog, to get everyone else to do it our way. It goes beyond ambition. Ambition is simply setting goals and striving to attain them. This is something different. This is climbing to the top on the backs of your brothers. This is being so preoccupied with winning it all that you lose it all in the vortex of death.

JAMES The **Epistle of James** talks about this. James' hearers are apparently quite well off, successful business men, the movers and shakers of his day. He reminds them that friendship with the world puts you at odds with God and that the stance before God is one of repentant humility, *"for God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* And so the posture of faith before God is not one of pride, arrogance, and boastfulness over all that you've accomplished and why God should be so tickled that you deign to come into His presence. Rather, the stance of faith is humble, repentant, grateful for God's mercy. *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."* Humble yourselves; it's a lot easier than being humbled by God.

Jesus gathers the Twelve together in a huddle and says, *"If you want to be great in my kingdom, you have to be a loser. If you want to come in first, you have to come in last and be the servant of all, because that's where I am. I, the Lord of all, have become the Servant of all, and am about to become the biggest loser in the religious world by getting myself crucified at the hands of Religion and Politics. But don't worry about it. Losing is winning in My Kingdom, and I will rise on the Third Day more victorious in death than any of you guys can be in life. You want to live the victorious life? Then drop dead with me."*

(LOSER) KID/S Ever the Good Teacher, He brings in an object lesson. **A little child**. Now understand this: In Jesus' day and age

children were not the little winners as they are today. They didn't glamorize and idolize childhood back then as some pure and noble and innocent state of being. **Children were considered little losers**, a drain on the family assets that couldn't be raised quickly enough and married off if you were a girl or put to work if you were a boy. There was no luxury of prolonged childhood, adolescence, no time to find yourself, or chase your dreams. It was an expressway to adulthood as quickly as possible.

MODEL (KID) That's what Jesus uses as a pattern for **Kingdom faith** – a little **child**, a child small enough to be picked up and held in Jesus' arms. He says, *"Boys, if you want to understand **greatness** in the Way of the Cross, then you must become like this kid I'm holding here. I must carry you, and you must trust Me to carry you. "Whoever receives one such child in My Name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not (just) Me but Him Who sent Me."*

SEND A BOY... We say, *"Don't send a boy to do a man's work."* Jesus says, *"That's **precisely** what I'm doing. I'm sending little children in My Name, and to receive them is to receive Me and the Father Who sent Me."*

CHILDLIKE (NOT –ISH) Let's be clear, we're talking **childLIKE** (not childISH). We have plenty of childish Christians around who need to come to the full measure of their maturity in Christ. Jesus is talking childlike – **trusting as a child trusts his mother and father**. Receiving, as a child receives all things without any merit or worthiness on her part. Graced by God's undeserved kindness in His beloved Child, Jesus, our Savior.

HUMILITY You understand this passage only as you understand **Jesus as the Child of God the Father**. He is that Child held in the Arms of His Father, and you **Baptized into Him are that child too**. He is the One who came not to be first but last, the Lord of all who came not to be served by the world but to serve and to lay down His life to save the world. And you, Baptized into Him and believing in Him have become last with Him, joining the ranks of those who have lost their lives in order to gain them, living this life or yours not to be served by others, but to serve others as Christ Jesus has served you.

AT THE **CROSS** Of course, it **can only be understood at the Cross of Jesus**. And I don't mean a symbolically **empty** Cross, but a Cross with **dead Jesus** on it... because **that's where HE humbled** Himself totally. There is greatness in the Kingdom of God, my friends. There is **power perfected in weakness**. There is glory such as the world has never seen. There is Victory right there in the middle of death. That's you, Baptised and believing. That's you. That's your life as it appears in this world. Dead, crucified, lost. You're a loser in this world if you believe this stuff. Ted Turner once said as much. *"Christianity is a religion for losers."* At least he gets it, conceptually speaking.

LOSE/R TO WIN/NER But to lose your life in Jesus, the Grand Loser, is to **win your life forever**. Trust this in the way of a little child, and you **will see it. IJ'N, Amen. SDG**

Possible Prayer of the Church 🕊️ **17th Sunday after Trinity September 23rd 2018**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible) Brief silence

In peace, let us pray for the gift of divine peace and pardon, with all our heart and mind, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church of Christ, that the Holy Spirit would rid us of all bitter jealousy and selfish ambition and fill the Baptized with the wisdom from above, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the Church, that they be given the grace to humble themselves before the Lord and to proclaim the mystery of the cross and resurrection with zeal and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our ELS Synod President; for our Circuit Visitor, that by the Spirit's power they may serve our Synod in their various offices purely, peaceably, gently and reasonably, always full of mercy and good fruits, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord...**

For our Nation and especially our leaders: Congress; our President; our justices; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that God would protect them from the dangers of selfish ambition, make them true servants and give them courage and integrity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the homebound, the lonely, the depressed and anxious, those preparing for surgery and the ill, *[especially for all who desire our prayers: **OSL Prayer List.**]* that committing their cause to the Lord and submitting themselves to God, they may know His peace and receive whatever healing He wills, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord**

For the faithful departed who now rest from their labors and rejoice in the presence of God and the Lamb, let us offer thanks and praise, and that He may give us our portion, too, with the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. ***Then, the Lord's Prayer...***

ALTERNATE INTRODUCTION Some years ago St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City was seeking a **new president**. Over one hundred candidates applied for the position. The search committee narrowed the list to five eminently qualified persons. **Then somebody came up with a brilliant idea:** let's send a person to the institutions where each of the five finalists is currently employed, and let's **interview the janitor** at each place, asking him what he thinks of the man seeking to be our president. This was done and a janitor gave such a glowing appraisal of William MacElvaney that he was selected President of St. Paul's School of Theology.

Somebody on that search committee understood, in a flash of genius, that those who live close to Christ become so secure in his love that they no longer relate to other people according to rank or power or money or prestige. They treat janitors and governors with equal dignity. They regard everybody as a VIP. Children seem to do this intuitively; adult Christians have to relearn it.

It is a telling little piece of scripture in **verse 32:** *"But they did not understand."* That's a picture that can be hung in the halls of the museum of mankind. When confronted by true greatness, we simply do not see it...