

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)  
 Year of the Lord 2019  
 Luke 18

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;  
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”  
 “Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!  
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to  
 Thee!”**

**Luke 18:1–8 *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*** He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” **And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

In the Name of Jesus:

The FINAL rescue from all adversity is soon: He shall come from the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, to judge the living and the dead. However, my dear ones, God’s justice came soon-ER:

<sup>18</sup> But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—<sup>19</sup> a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. <sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, <sup>21</sup> but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they

asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will. <sup>1</sup>

Oh, the PAIN! The INJUSTICE! Had JESUS neglected prayer?

HE did not lose heart, but prayed, in the Garden, the night He was betrayed:

<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” <sup>2</sup>

AND, as our Leader, He teaches us to pray; IN pain; in justice perverted, justice of men defanged! Not only the Our Father; but also, from the cross:

<sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:18–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:39–46). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:32–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

I have been stuck on the word ‘bigotry’ lately. The word simply means to have a knee-jerk aversion to people whose thoughts and ways are not to our liking, not our own. Like our Old Adam’s bigoted aversion to loving God and neighbor.

The Lord urges His disciples to continue in prayer and not to give in to evil, not to lose heart. But, for WHAT justice do we pray? To what plea for VINDICATION does our Lord point us, on His way to Calvary?

It cannot be anything that satisfies our religious bigotry: ‘MY religion and ways—my PRAYERS!—are counted right up above; I’m not SO confident about you and YOUR prayers!’ HE did not come for THAT! And HE did not pray that prayer, nor live it. Instead, He practiced what He preached! And what He preached was THIS:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Are WE there yet, my dear ones? In that pray-ing; in those words; in that faith; in that heart? Ahhh....HE says not to give up. And He is risen from the dead! HE is confident about the work of the Spirit His Father promised and sent to give us life, the day we were baptized with Him; with Jesus; with His Father; with His Spirit.

I may have neglected to inform y'all that I have a grandson. His name is Samuel Paul. It was hard to suppress a smile last week, when I heard from Samuel Paul's staff that His Majesty had to receive THREE shots at the doctor's office. By shot two, he was praying for vindication and justice with such volume, that he was making no sound at all! After shot three, he shot daggers at his chauffeur with a look that spoke as only a hurt one-year-old can communicate: 'How DARE you let this happen?!'

What did I say to the original little girl from whom that carbon copy was made? 'I have no idea what you're talking about....'

So, for the child's unbelief, no trust in mommy or doctor, did Samuel Paul's mother drop him back off at the Wal-Mart, where they got him? No more than she was returned merchandise.

The child will learn, and look back and smile, this Good News: without the pain of those shots, mom, dad, GOD, are NOT loving

you, boy; rather, they are condemning you to great evil to come.

Part of the Lord's passage is ambiguous today. 'Will God delay over them?' Other translations suggest, 'Will God bear with them in patience?'

For what are we praying? That the Blessed Holy Trinity will line us up, dear Lutherans, and let heaven, earth and hell know that WE had it going on, religiously, in this world; and others did not come up to scratch? Jesus Christ killed any type of that religious bigotry the day they released the murderer and led HIM away to be executed, judiciously. They...had no idea what they were doing! That's what HE prayed!

The Lord teaches us to pray for a day, a Kingdom, a Life, in which we will not know what to do with ourselves? What will fill That Day, when we lose all aversion to our Heavenly Father? What will we do with each other, on The Day when we never see each other as something to squeeze for profit; but, like God, Joy?

Jesus is confident about That Day to come! HE has made it certain. And He prays for us now, at the right hand of the Father!

You, dear Christian, are only allowed to despair about YOU and YOUR conversion, YOUR prayers, YOUR faith, when the Holy Spirit despairs! But He ain't got a drop of despair in Him!

Proof, pastor! You got it!

Today you have been absolved. Today you have heard the Gospel of innocence condemned to prove the condemned innocent: that's us! Today you have reveled in your Baptism as a little Christ, a priest and king, whose prayers Heaven CANNOT deny!

Oh...the Spirit does not know HOW to stop GIVING!

Now, He delivers to us and gives to us and pledges to us, with the Bread and the Wine, His Body to eat and His Blood to drink.

To make the whole package that is us, dear Christians, prayer, acceptable to God the Father in the Name of Jesus. Amen.