

October 15, 2023
“Taking the Next Faithful Step”

Joshua 1:9 – *Be strong and of good courage...for the Lord God is with you wherever you go.*



Thought:

What do the two words mean....sparingly or bountifully? I have heard of someone who was said to have a generous spirit which I think is about glorifying God not in how much or how little. Is your heart open or guarded?

From 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing^[a] in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness^[b] endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.^[c] ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great

generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you^[d] glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Yes, thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Reception of New Members:

Cassandra Baal;
Children: Kolbe, Maddison, Mayson and Bennett

Vickie Rayburn

Arlene Conaghan

Jackie Scoville
Children: JQ, Jazmyne, and Keniya

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: The Lord is near!

C: Let us stand firm in the Lord.

A: The Lord is near!

C: Let us replace fear and worry with prayer and peace.

A: The Lord is near!

C: Let us rejoice with gentleness and gratitude.

A: The Lord is near!

C: Let us unite that we might love God with all our being and neighbors as ourselves.

A: The Lord is near!

C: And the God of peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus

Stewardship Hymn – “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” ELW #325

https://youtu.be/zs0hleb_DX4

by First-Plymouth Church

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Acknowledging that in our sin we have neglected and rejected gifts that have been provided by God, let us confess our sins together.

A time of silence for reflection

P: God of grace, you have called us to walk with you in our living. Yet, we often change directions following our own desires.

C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.

P: You have given us the gift of time. You give us time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to follow and share. We often forget that God has made everything beautiful in its time.

C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.

P: You provide us with opportunity to serve in numerous ways using our talents and abilities we have been given. We hesitate to follow where we have been called.

C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.

P: We have been invited to a wondrous wedding banquet, whether rich, poor or in-between. Help us to appreciate the wondrous gift you offer and not neglect to offer the invitation to others.

C: Lord, in our mercy. Forgive us.

P: You have provided us with a beautiful creation to enjoy. Let us walk with eyes open in how we might care for what you have given.

C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon

P: While God knows our sin, God also hears our cries. In Christ, the invitation is given and we are forgiven,

C: “Let us ever walk with Jesus” thanks be to God and Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW #772

<https://youtu.be/F94gZlHy4Jw>

by Koine

Prayer of the Day

A: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance.

C: Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 25:1-9

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations;⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over.

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Philippians 4:1-9

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable whatever is just whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, think about these things.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Mathew 22:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**
<https://youtu.be/xRRIH9dm9Fw?si=3nmcVFPHBt130KA5>

Invitations ignored

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/zFiSaxk4cP0?si=4QHaziO8bXOFq2X3>

Message – “Invitations and Neckties”

<https://youtu.be/rnpOgpAmjEU?si=gT6Nsr9kcDpnu6dW>

Hymn of the Day – “As We Gather at Your Table” ELW #522

<https://youtu.be/afbHbZn2HjA>

by FAPC in NYC

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for . . .*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy (*especially Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church*), that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Music – “Change My Heart, O God” ELW #801

<https://youtu.be/yFAVpUQgVoo>

Lyrics by Nia

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit

Consecration

The 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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

C: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “As Saints of Old” ELW #695

<https://youtu.be/VJlye-MICmg>
by St. Stephen music

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Bringing the invitation to the Banquet for others.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston



The Parables of Jesus

The Banquet - Luke 14:15-24

