

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025

The Parable of the Persistent Widow



First Lutheran Church
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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

*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.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost

and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✚ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult ELW #696
(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW page 138

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Give to Our God Immortal Praise! ELW #848
(Vs. 1)
Public Domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² 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. ²³ He took them and sent them

across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.²⁵ 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.²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."²⁸ 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."²⁹ 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.³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING—2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

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

^{4:1} 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: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ 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 ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia

ELW page #142

The Holy Gospel according to the eighteenth chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet

because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***Let Justice Flow like Streams* ELW #717**

CCLI #591745 & One License #42967

THE 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**

THE PRAYERS

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer especially those in our hearts and on our prayer list.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for First Lutheran Church. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ especially Jim Hamilton.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ELW #182

One License #37488

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 144

The Lord be with you.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, holy, holy ELW page 144

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Lamb of God ELW page 146

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Light ELW #714
(Vs. 1 & 5)

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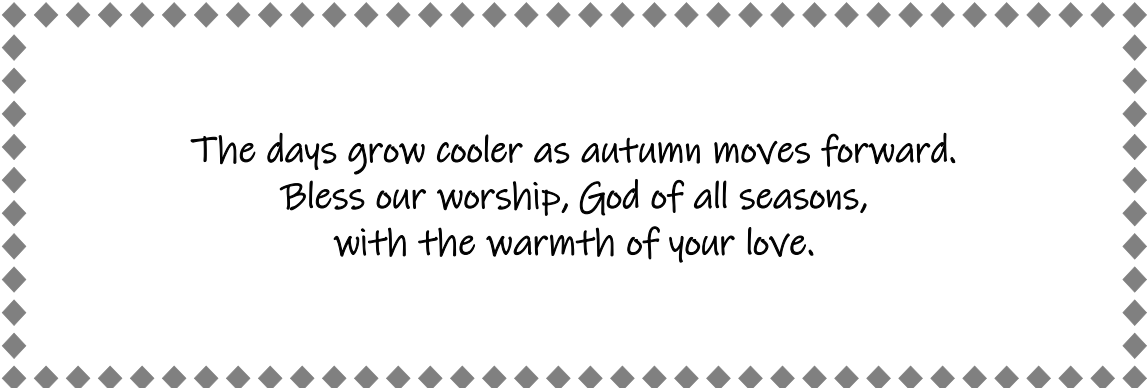
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



The days grow cooler as autumn moves forward.
Bless our worship, God of all seasons,
with the warmth of your love.



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Shift Worship—Membership
Expires 12/25/2025

Sharefaith—Membership
Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560
Expires 12/15/2025

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

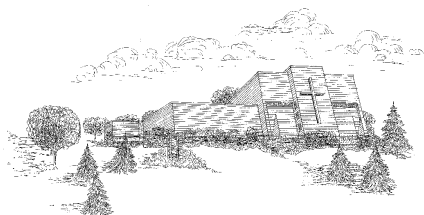
October Ministry Focus: Prayer Shawl and Indigenous People

The Prayer Shawl Ministry uses the talents of knitting or crocheting, to form a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort, solace and prayer. If you would like to receive a prayer shawl or would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Brenda Liebhard-Johnson.

Indigenous People—In October we pause to honor Indigenous Peoples Day, recognizing and giving thanks for the Native nations who have long cared for the lands and waters we now call home. With humility, we acknowledge the Dakota and other Native peoples whose ancestral lands surround us. We commit ourselves to listen, learn, and walk alongside our Indigenous siblings, seeking reconciliation, healing, and justice. On Monday, Oct. 13, may we be reminded of our call to repentance, renewal, and faithful stewardship of the land, as we join with Indigenous communities in hope for a future rooted in respect and peace.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Budget Amount Needed
10-12-25	\$770	\$4,542
YTD	\$171,144	\$190,747

Year to Date Financial Results			
Month Ending	Actual Received	Actual Expense	Net Gain/(Loss)
8-31-2025	\$153,849	\$152,167	\$1,682



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, October 19	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
Monday, October 20	10:00a 6:00p	Le Sueur Food Shelf Meeting Church Council
Tuesday, October 21	10:00a 10:15a	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Unit
Wednesday, October 22	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8:00p 6:30-8:00p	Staff Meeting Meal @ FLC RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, October 26	9:00a 10:15a	Worship w/Holy Communion Confirmation First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

October 19, 2025		October 26, 2025	
Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller	Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick	First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	LeRoy Halland	Acolytes:	Reece St. Pierre
Reader:	Liz Osborne	Reader:	Ian Mailleue
Usher:	Vic Pengilly	Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Schwarz Family	Greeters:	LeRoy & Joan May
Communion Asst:	Rachel Wagner Edrie Barton	Communion Asst:	Sophie Tews Joan May
Council Member:	Aaron Fredrickson	Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Fellowship:	Haemig Family	Fellowship:	8th Grade Class
Projection:	Tech Team	Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team	Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack	Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Joan May	Offering Counters:	Bob Patrias Bob Bartle
Altar Guild:	Connie Baum	Altar Guild:	Connie Baum