

IJ'N, Amen. SDG

POSSIBLE Prayer of Church - 19th Sunday after Trinity, October 11, 2026 F.OS
Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, by the forgiveness of Your Son, that we may put off the old ways of sin and walk in the way of His commandments. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

We glorify You, Lord God, that You have given such authority to men to forgive sins in the name of Jesus Christ, whose blood has made atonement for the sins of the world. Focus every word and deed of Your ministers in the Church toward this Office of the Keys, that the Gospel may predominate in our worship and life together. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, You call Your children to put off the old man of sin daily and live together in the forgiveness of Christ. Fill our homes with Your Holy Spirit. Leave no place for the devil, but work Your righteousness and holiness among us. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, preserve the lives of all our leaders. Even as You rule the world by Your mighty power, be pleased to give wisdom to our nation, that it may have peace and success in accordance with Your commandments. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Merciful Lord, Your Son healed the sick and the broken. Hear our prayers for those in need among us and all those suffering in body, mind or soul, *[especially Faith & Our Savior Prayers,] ... and all those we each name and keep in our hearts in personal [Silent] prayer.* Grant them healing now in Your gracious Will and Resurrection at the Last Day. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Holy Father, how awesome is this place, the very house of God and gate of heaven. Here, according to His Word, Your Son is bodily present with us in the Sacrament of the Altar. Bring us to eat and drink worthily at His Supper in repentance and faith, that through its forgiveness and healing, we may put off the old self and be renewed in true righteousness and holiness. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lover of mankind, You desire that all be saved and find forgiveness in Your Son. Inspire our witness to those we know and love, that we may bring them to His feet for true and eternal healing. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our ...*

Bless the women of this congregation and its that they would delight in the growth that You give them through Your Word, and that their continued service would bring joy to those they serve. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our ...*

Prepare us now, O LORD, to receive the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation given to us in Your Son's body and blood in His Holy Supper, that being justified and filled, we would return to our homes in joy and peace. *LORD, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Whatever else that we need or would be good for us, we entrust to Your bountiful providence, for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

TRINITY-19 Matthew 9:1-8 MIRACLES STILL HAPPEN TODAY 10.11.26 F.OS.L
In the Name of the One Who forgives all your sins and heals your diseases, Dear fellow redeemed;

THE [GOSPEL] ACCOUNT Our Gospel for this morning, the account of Jesus healing the paralytic, is a favorite of many. It is almost always included in Bible story books, Sunday school lessons and brief accounts of the Life of Christ, probably because of its extraordinary drama and clear illustration of Jesus' love for sinners. A man, afflicted by some paralysis which would not allow him to walk, is brought to Jesus by friends. **St. Matthew** gives us the **Reader's Digest** account and simply says "*they brought to Him a paralytic,*" but **Luke** and **Mark** fill in some details, recording the effort these men went through to get the paralytic to Jesus. So popular was the LORD by this time that the crowd prevented a direct approach and so Luke says "*when they could not find how they might bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.*" **[5:19]**

[YEAR OF] POPULARITY And it is no mystery to us why this man and his friends had such difficulty approaching Jesus, why there was this crowd. Jesus was popular, He had a reputation, as a **powerful Teacher but also as a miracle Worker**. People gathered around Him expecting to see or experience something great, to see the sick healed, the blind receive sight, the lame walk. So you can imagine the anticipation of the crowd when this lame man is lowered through the roof before the Lord. **Here was some real drama.** Here was a chance to see something really special happen.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Nor has the space of 2000 years changed that expectation gone away. **Even today, when people come to Jesus, they expect great things.** They expect Him to do something extraordinary. **They expect a miracle.** ... We don't need to look too far to see the truth of this. After the events of September 11 people flocked to churches. Why? They wanted to approach God; people were coming to Jesus with the expectation that in the midst of crisis, He would do something. That He would provide the comfort or relief they could not find anywhere else. We all have these **"Come To Jesus" moments.**

EXPECT A MIRACLE[?] Even during normal times, we see the truth of this. Think about yourself, and your reaction when someone you know, someone you've encouraged to come to church, finally does so. We feel relief and joy, but often we feel more than that; we feel excitement, because we see that they will encounter Jesus, and we expect, we want something great to happen. We expect a miracle.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? Or think about yourself, and **what YOU expect when you encounter Jesus.** When you are experiencing difficulties or problems in your life, and lay them before God in prayer. As Christians we gather together weekly, and we bring with us our problems and cares, our wants and our struggles. Every week we lower ourselves

before Jesus and look to Him in faith. And we expect that He will do something. As Lutherans we even **call our gathering the Divine Service, with the understanding that here God performs His service to us.**

EXPECTANT WAITING When we encounter Jesus, we expect something to happen; some healing, a changed life, answers to problems. Like the crowd, like the paralytic, when we encounter Jesus, we wait **for results**. And what do we find?

[THEME] **OUR LORD STILL FORGIVES & STILL PERFORMS MIRACLES AMONG US**

THE UNEXPECTED Only it's *not* always the miracle we **expect**. There are times when we pray to God that He would grant someone healing, be it through successful surgery, through the use of skilled medical care, or simply through the exercise of His divine mercy, and God grants our request. There are times when we pray that God would help those in trouble, or that He would bless us with peace and safety, and God delivers, and blesses, sometimes in ways that we can only call miraculous. But that is only sometimes. Other times when we pray for healing, and in His wisdom, God instead allows us to bear up under sickness or even death. There are times when we pray for deliverance, and God instead allows us to bear a cross. There are times when we pray for one thing, yet God, in His Fatherly love and wisdom, chooses for us a better course.

JESUS DOES BETTER Yet when we encounter Jesus, He always performs for us the **greater** miracle He performed for the paralytic. When we encounter our Lord, He hears, and He acts, and He heals. He does for us exactly what He did for the man lowered before Him in our text, saying to us, *"Take heart, your sins are forgiven."*

[DON'T BE] **DISAPPOINTED** And sad to say, we are often **disappointed**. Even during times when we are struggling with guilt, we are often disappointed to hear those words, because we are often expecting or wanting something else, something we imagine would be better. For us, to hear the words of the Gospel is often like being 10 years old and getting a savings bond for Christmas. The bond could be for a hundred, or a thousand, or ten thousand dollars, but all we can think is, *"I wanted that new toy, but all I got was this crummy piece of paper that I can't do anything with until I'm 18. That is to say, an eternity from now."* **We lack perspective, and an understanding** for what will truly do us the most good in our lifetimes.

GOD HAS PERSPECTIVE But God has **perspective**. In fact, God has the perspective of eternity in mind when He deals with us. God looks at us and sees that our real problem is not the sickness in our bodies, nor the strife in our relationships, nor the hostility in our world. It is sin, from which springs illness, which causes strife and hatred, which disrupts peace. Thus in acting to help us, God went to the root of our problem, rather than the branches. God dealt with sin. He sent His Son Jesus to earth to become a man, to live the way we are supposed to live, and then to die the death that we deserved to die. We are sinful, but Jesus lived a life that was holy in our

place. We deserved to die and suffer in hell for our sin, but Jesus paid that penalty for us. And through that wonderful thing that Jesus did, God the Holy Spirit brings to us through His work of creating faith in our hearts, through the powerful gift of Baptism and in the powerful declaration of the Gospel. For us to hear those words, *"Your sins are forgiven"* is to firmly ground us in **the truth that we are the children of God**. Satan no longer has any claim on us. He may approach you and say to you, *"You must be a terrible sinner! Look at the way God is punishing you with all these troubles in your life! There must be no hope for you at all."* Yet we may respond, *"You have the wrong person, because God has clearly said to me that my sins are forgiven. God loves me so much that He laid all my sins on Jesus and punished Him in my place."* Satan may say to you, *"I know what you did, and it was a terrible thing. Certainly Christians do not commit such sins, thus you must not be a Christian."* Yet we may say to him, *"What I did was terrible and wrong, but once again, in my repentance my Savior has told me that all my sins are forgiven. Even the worst of them He has washed away in the waters of Baptism. You and I may see a terrible sinner, but my Heavenly Father sees a saint, one of His children who will inherit Heaven."*

BATTLE WITH SIN In this way, God combats sin, because in this way he takes us who are sinners and makes us saints. We may not always realize we've seen it or appreciate it, but here in this powerful declaration of forgiveness, we encounter Jesus and experience His miracle of forgiveness, the very thing we need to combat the sin which is the root of all trouble in our lives.

STILL TROUBLES This is not to say that all troubles and anxieties will be removed from our lives with each proclamation of the Gospel. We still deal with the sin in our flesh and in the world, and we still have Satan seeking to tempt us and to cause us harm. But it is to say that each time that Gospel is proclaimed to us, each time we are told our sins are forgiven, each time we eat our Lord's Body and drink His Blood sin is defeated. Satan is trampled under our feet, his head **crushed by Jesus' Victory on the Cross**, and we are once again established as God's children, **not** the children of the world, as heirs of Heaven, not prisoners of hell. As Jesus said in **John 16:33**, *"In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

MICHAELMAS All through October we observe the little season of **Michaelmas** in the Church, and we hear readings that remind us that we are the **Church Militant; struggling against Satan who seeks to destroy us**. This month are reminded of the truth that if you want to combat Satan, you wield the Gospel. ← That powerful Weapon is **the One Thing Needful**; the declaration that in Jesus, all our sins are forgiven. Jesus makes us the children of God. While we still struggle with sin in our lives and yet strive to live a more Christ-like life, **we truly conquer** as we hear and proclaim the Gospel. Let us keep hearing and proclaiming the Gospel.