

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 19, 2025**

The Parable of the Persistent Widow



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stubborn children. 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

"How Long, O God"

#698

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.**

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.**

please be seated

First Reading

Genesis 32:22 - 31

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Psalms 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

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Joyce Schlesselmann

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

#858 vs. 3

Gospel

Luke 18: 1 - 8

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

#769

Apostle's 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

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering

please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

#858 vs. 4

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... 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 Great Thanksgiving

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

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.

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“Day by Day” #790

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #742

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....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.**

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

Sending Hymn

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

#624

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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"NEW LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE"



Welcome: Jesus urges us to pray always and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). So we gather today for prayer, and also to give God praise and thanksgiving. Welcome.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Jack Tatum, Randy Oelrichs, Susan Kyle, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Jason Sash, Bredlee & Jessica Stillfield (friends of Melisa Balke), Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan) and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Major Joseph Strathman, Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and grandson of Judie VonHolten), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) and Capt. Ashlie Colston (daughter of Jon Beckman).



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month: Give Pastor Stephen a call, card, or personally tell him how much we appreciate his ministry and witness among us and into the community.

One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, **October 20th** at 9:00am in the Gathering Space. Please feel free to join them.



Esther Circle



Circle: The Esther Circle will meet in the home of Janice Gerken on Monday, **October 20th** at 7:00 pm.

Planning: The Worship & Music committee will meet on Wednesday, **October 22nd** at 3:30pm.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **October 23rd** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

Reformation: On Sunday, **October 26th** we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! Though we give thanks for the events of the sixteenth-century Reformation that brought renewal to the church of that time, we pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for that day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.



BE SURE AND WEAR YOUR RED!



Newsletter: The Sunbeam committee will meet on Wednesday, **October 29th** at 3:00pm.

Meeting: The Evangelism committee will meet on Wednesday, **October 29th** at 7:00pm.





All Saints Worship: As part of our worship on All Saints Sunday, **November 2nd**, we will read the names of those saints of St. Paul's who have died during the past year. At another point in the service we will read a longer list of the saints who have played a role in our lives. If you would like the name of that saint (family member, friend, mentor, etc.) read during this service, please give those names to the church office by October 26th.

Time: Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, **November 2nd**. Be sure and set your clock back on Saturday night.



First Bibles: On Sunday, **November 9th** eight of our young people will receive their First Bibles from our congregation. They are Preston Carver, Gracynn Elliott, Ainsely Kullman, Korbin Kyle, Cooper Loughery, Cooper Oelrichs, Mason Smith and Isaac Zeller.

Free Yoga Class: Every Monday at 6:30pm at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall, a free yoga class will be offered. Thanks to new local doctor and certified Yoga instructor, Stephanie Schirding, for offering her time! This is a beginner's class.



~ * ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ * ~

Chicken Dinner: Cole Camp R-1 Freshman Class will have a fundraiser dinner **today**, from 11am - 1pm. Please come support these new high schoolers as they begin their journey. Menu will be: Chicken Dinner, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, roll with salads and desserts. Prices: \$15 Adult, \$12 Ages 8-12, Free 5 & under.



Socktober: Hosted by Care Connections for Aging Services and the Cole Camp Senior Center, each year the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) collects socks for Christmas that will be given to isolated and homebound seniors who receive home delivered meals through their local centers. Any leftover socks get donated to nursing homes and/or veteran's homes. Over the last 3 years, they have collected over 8500 pairs of new socks! If you can donate new socks this month, please drop them off in the bucket located in the Link.

Attention Hunters! The Cole Camp Food Pantry benefits each year from Missouri's Share the Harvest program. Hunters who harvest deer but don't need it processed for themselves can donate the deer to Kempf's Custom Butchering, 21612 Glenn Rd, Sedalia. Kempf's will process the deer for free and donate the ground meat to our Food Pantry. When taking the deer to Kempf's please designate the donation for the Cole Camp Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

October 26	Reformation
November 2	All Saints Sunday
November 2	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 9	First Bibles
November 16	Baptism of Grace Fowler

Welcome to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Ministers	The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist.....	Lois Viebrock
Pianist	Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians.....	Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild	Susan Goosen & Debbie Vaughan
Ushers	Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
.....	Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 19, 2025

Assisting Minister	Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants	Luther League
Reader.....	Norma Schlesselman
Children’s Sermon	Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes	Tristan Fox & Lexi Goyette
Flowers	Theila Luetjen



Reformation Sunday ~ October 26, 2025

Assisting Minister	Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants	Ruth Ann Kreisel & Sharel Wienberg
Reader.....	Tiffinay Nash
Children’s Sermon	Paul Fuelling
Acolytes	Kale Kruep & Jace Tinney
Flowers	Connie Gerken