

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 27:7-14 *Teach me your way, O Lord, & lead me on a level path because of my enemies. (v11)*

Colossians 1:21-29

Luke 10:38-42

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, & you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Colossians 1:21-29

²¹And you, who once were alienated & hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy & blameless & above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable & steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, & of which I, Paul, became a minister. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, & in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages & generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone & teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What is the hope in v23? What is its source?
2. What do *Romans 5:1-5* & *2 Corinthians 1:5* add to v24?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What does v21 say about you before you became a Christian? *See Romans 5:10; Ephesians 4:18* What does it mean that no neutral category exists between Christian believers & (pre-Christian) nonbelievers?
4. Jesus' suffering for our sake is complete (*cf. vv20, 22, 2:9-15*) Yet on earth the baptized Body of Christ still suffers more & more until the last day (*cf. v24*). How does such suffering in your own life bring benefits to others (*vv25-26, 29*)?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. "This mystery" of Jesus Christ coming is not only into this world, but also to each believer. How would you explain this to a pre-Christian? *Review the Small Catechism for hints, available bookofconcord.org*
6. How can you help these pre-Christians "choose the better portion" (*Luke 10:42*) as Jesus comes into their life full of distractions, including things that "must get done"?

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 11

07.20.25

Series: The Good Life

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Life finds joy & hope today, but fulfillment in eternity

Freedom from Sin

Sin misses out on the good life

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [his beloved Son] has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy & blameless & above reproach before him (v22)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed are those who hold the word fast in an honest & good heart, & bear fruit with patient endurance. (*Luke 8:15*)

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