

Historic Scripture Lessons for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NIV Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These Commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

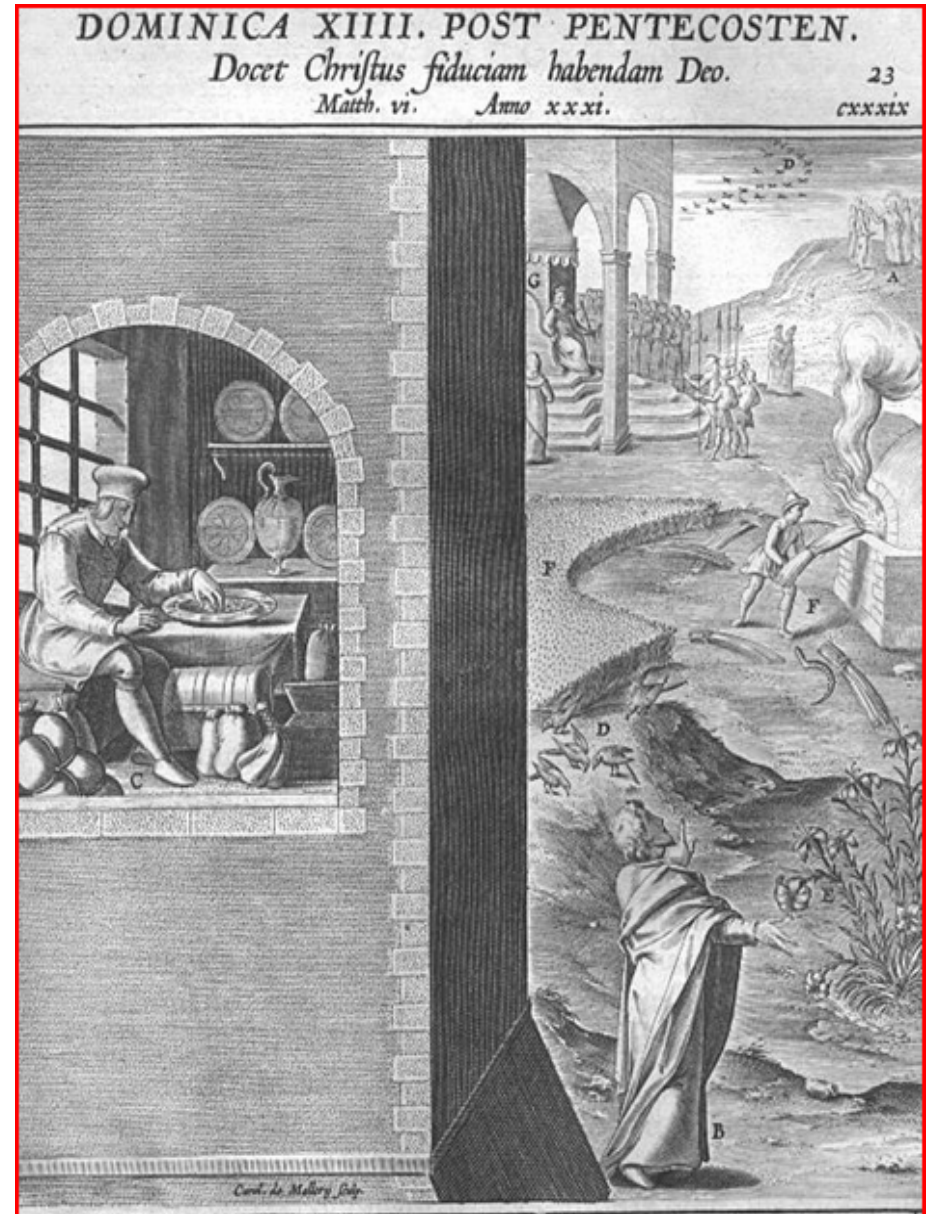
Epistle

Galatians 5:24-6:10 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load. 6 Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Gospel

Matthew 6:24-34 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

 Our Savior & Peace Lutheran of Lakeland 
15th Sunday after Trinity ✠ *Contentment* – “*The Lilies*”
September 13th, 2015 ✠ 9:30am & 11am



From “Illustrations of the Gospel Stories” by Jerome Nadal: **Matthew 6**
Jesus teaches disciples about **Contentment: birds in air & grass in fields.**

Image courtesy of the Biblical and Religious Art Collection, <http://catholic-resources.org/Nadal/023.jpg>

6920 N Socrum Loop Road || 5970 Lakeland Highlands Road
 (N) Lakeland, 33809 Ph: 859-3400 || (S) Lakeland, 33813 Ph: 647-2351
 BIBLE CLASS: 8:30AM; WORSHIP: 9:30AM || SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10AM; WORSHIP: 11
 * A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 * Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198 *

September 13th, 2015 Trinity-15 Contentment

WELCOME to Our Savior & Peace! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time or in a long time, we ask that you please **sign the guest book** found in the narthex/entry to record your visit today. **Come worship with us again!** God bless you. Amen.

OUR SAVIOR WORSHIP ORDER (Red) TLH hymnals start at **p. 5**
PEACE ORDER OF WORSHIP (Red) CW hymnals start at **p.38; Ps.23**

Hymns	OSL# (v)Peace#	1st Line of Hymn
Opening	250 (4v) 278	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Sermon	403 (4v) 488	Savior, Thy Dying Love Thou Gavest Me
Offertory Verse	400 (6v) XXX	<i>Sing v.1,4 Take My Life and Let It Be</i>
3 rd Hymn	428 (6v) 446	I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus
Closing	436 (5v) 360	The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 14th Sunday after Trinity
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 II King20:1-21 II Kings21:1-26 II Chro.34:1-33 IICh35:20-36:10 Jeremia22:1-30 Jer. 25:1-14
 Titus 3:8-15 Philemon Hebrews1:1-14 Hebrew.2:5-3:6 Heb. 4:14-5:14 Heb. 6:1-20

PROPERS for THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  **SEPT 13**

INTROIT Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me. You are my God, save Your servant who trusts in You. Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ...from Psalm 86

COLLECT O Lord, we beseech You, let Your continual mercy cleanse and defend Your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without Your help, preserve and govern it evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A- -men.

GRADUAL C: It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Alleluia! Alleluia! O God, my heart is fixed! I will sing and make music with all my soul. Alleluia! (118&108)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. **Deuteronomy 6:4-7** Love the Lord, your God, who is *One* God.
 Epi. **Galatians 5:24-6:10** Let's not become weary of still doing good.
 Gos. **Matthew 6:24-34** Let God's Kingdom be your first & top priority.

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
OSL & Peace Lutheran	Pray the Lord directs us in our future/s (Vacancy)	
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daugh.)	High platelets, tests for blood diseases
Don Bires	(Linda)	Don goes in for (teeth replacement) today or tomorrow
Alex Gourley	(Ilene)	Alex had shoulder replacement Thu. Home recovering
Jim & Elma Hendricks		Elma still recovering, she and James at home
Linda Kryszak		Still recuperating at home. Has a degenerative disc
Dee Kurczewski		Pray for relief. Dee fell, broke 3 ribs, recovering at home
Mary, Pam & Karen		All friends, family of Donna Martin, all battling cancer
Vivian Temple	(Tom)	Vivian is (back) in hospital with inflamed gall bladder
Rev. Peter & Heyns		Lord's blessings on both their transition and new Call
Morica Reinsch		Just landed in China to teach ESL (& do mission work)

Volunteers	Today OSL/PLL	Next Sunday
Greeters	Webers / (Volunteers)	Wendts / (Volunteers)
(Head)Usher	Leroy Dux / (Volunteer)	Leroy Dux / (Volunteer)
Treaters	(Volunteer) / (Volunteer)	Robin Dux / (Volunteer)

Statistics	Last Sun. O/P	Year to date (Avg)
Sunday Attendance (Communion)	32(28)/34(28)	30(24) / 40(30)
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	16 / - -	15 / - -

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 9/13	8:30 am	OSL Bible Study 3rd Art. - Eternal Live
Trinity-15 Sunday	9:30 am	OSL Worship (NO Communion)
(Contentment)	10:45 ff...	OSL Fellowship, Coffee...Please stay
	10:00 am	PEACE Christian Ed. 1st Sunday School
	11:00 am	PLL Worship (NO Communion) † Ed.
	12:15 ff...	PLL Fellowship, Coffee...Please stay
Thursday, 9/17	7:00 pm	PLL+OSL Joint Council Mtg. @ PEACE
Saturday, 9/19	10:00 am	OSLadies' Guild September (1st) Mtg.
	11:00 am	OSL Catechism Class (Mariah) at OSL
Sunday, 9/20	8:30 am	OSL Bible Study Sacraments, Baptism
Trinity-16 Sunday	9:30 am	OSL Worship (WITH Communion)
(Death & Rising)	10:45 ff...	OSL Fellowship, Coffee...Please stay
	10:00 am	PEACE Bible Class & Sunday School
	11:00 am	PLL Worship (WITH Communion)
	12:15 ff...	PLL Fellowship, Coffee...Please stay

Our Savior Elders are: **Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892.** Please contact them.
 Peace Elders are: **Bill Dumke (863) 838-3729 & Roger Mielke 944-7289**

* Greetings to ALL - both Our Savior and Peace members, families, friends and especially guests! This is the first Sunday of **Pastor (Andy/rew) Burmeister** serving BOTH congregations - OSL & PLL. Listed (above) are phone numbers of the elders of both congregations; also church phones and Pastor's (cell).

OSL Next Sun. 9/20 Trinity-16 (W/ L.S. p.15) Hymns: 215 526 189 528 613
PLL Next Sun. 9/20 Trinity-16 (W/ L.S. p.26) Hymns: 170 438 - (419) 214

TRINITY-15(B) Matthew 6:24-34 "WHY DO WE WORRY?" 09.13.15 OSL/PLL

PRAYER Lord God, heavenly Father, help me to seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness. Give me a childlike confidence in You. Give me a confident mind, and give me blessing in my vocation. Do not give me treasure or riches, but apportion to me my allotted bread. Lord, You know our hearts and our temptations; have mercy, and fill us with Your mercy, so that we may sing joyfully and be happy all our days. *J'N, Amen.*

INTRODUCTION We **worry** and **fret** and **agonize** and **stew** about so many things. And many of these things are not insignificant or trivial. Some **are** very important -- like how our children will turn out; how we'll get by when we retire; how a relative or friend will get through a sickness or trauma; or what path the Lord is leading us down as we head into the future.

(To be sure) **These are not small matters.** But then again, neither are the questions, "*What shall we eat?*" or "*What shall we drink?*" or "*What shall we wear?*" There aren't too many things more basic than food and clothing. And yet Jesus tells us in the Gospel **not to worry about them.** If that's so, should we really be anxious, then, about the other things?

And yet sometimes, we just can't help ourselves. We keep talking with others about these things. We obsess. We act as if it's all dependent on us and what we do and what our strategy and plans are. And then, when we're in that frame of mind, it's easy for us to treat Jesus' words as just pie-in-the-sky religious niceties. In fact, it can seem as if He's trivializing our problems by making comparisons to birds and flowers. That's all fine and good, we say, but my life's a little more complicated than a bird. Get real. "Don't worry" just doesn't cut it when the realities of life in this fallen world set in. We can be tempted to think that He doesn't truly care or that He's just brushing off our concerns as no big deal.

But of course, Jesus isn't throwing clichés at us to get us off His back. He doesn't treat His **adopted brothers and sisters** that way, (which is what we are, actually). And neither does His Father, who is our Father in heaven. For Our Lord God is not a harsh, uncaring, selfish Father who spends time with us only when He feels like it. Our heavenly Father is the picture of perfect warmth and kindness. He's the essence of mercy and love. And so He never brushes us off, never leaves us to ourselves, never abandons us. We may say and think He does, but that doesn't make it so. And we may turn a deaf ear to Him, but that's **not how He treats us.** And we may be **unfaithful, disloyal, disrespectful, and demanding** of Him, but He never dishes it back to us. And we may hold a grudge against Him because we think He did us wrong, but He is quick to forgive, quick to renew His Holy Spirit within us, and quick to restore to us the joy of His salvation.

So then, how does He answer the things that worry us? Well, we hear in the Old Testament from His **prophet Elijah** (to the widow and her son): "**Do not fear.**" The Lord will take care of you. You *may think* your back is against the wall, and that there's no hope. But, really, there is nothing to fear. **Your bin of flour shall NOT be used up.** Which for you means, you will

always have a **place at the Lord's Table**, and always be able to **eat bread in His Kingdom.** And the **jar of oil** shall not run dry. Which for you means that the Lord will **never take back the anointing of your Baptism**, the healing of your soul, the undying forgiveness, and the eternal life you received when He said you were His own. And what's more the prophet says, the Lord will send rain on the earth. Which for you means that He will **pour out on you His Holy Spirit** -- to restore your hope, to uplift your spirit, to help you look beyond the many things that trouble you, and to cause you to believe that, no matter what you've done or what's been done to you, no matter what the future may hold for you or your children or your grandchildren, the Lord will continue to take care of you, and lavish you with His love, and sustain and strengthen you. So do not fear. For "if God is for us, who can be against? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also along with Him freely give us all things?" **If God has taken care of all of our eternal needs in Christ, can't we also trust Him with the earthly things?**

That is the word Our Lord Jesus speaks to you today by His Spirit. He's not talking about **birds** and **flowers** to **brush you off.** He's pointing to them and saying, "*The Lord takes care of them - and they are so trivial, so small. Surely, you're of more value than they are! Surely, you matter much more! They'll never be called children of God, and they're not made to commune with God. But you are.*" The Son of God did not become a sparrow or a lily. **He became a Man.** He **died** as a Man to redeem you, and **rose** as a Man to conquer your death, and **ascended** to the Father's right hand as a Man to give you a place in heaven. He is **coming back** as a Man, **God in the flesh**, to bring you to Himself. Your human nature has been taken up into the very nature of God Himself in Christ! What great honour the Father has bestowed on you! How could He ever forget you? **He is never negligent.** He keeps His promises. He takes care of the birds and the flowers. **He will take care of you.** So seek **first His kingdom** and His righteousness, and all these other things **will** be added to you.

But, you still might ask, what about Christians who are poor and hungry in this and other countries, or who suffer persecution, or who seem to be as forsaken as Lazarus outside the rich man's gate? Is God not keeping His promise? Perhaps this story can add some perspective: During World War II, God allowed **Father Maximilian Kolbe** to be handed over to Nazi brutality in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, where they tried to use hunger to turn men into animals. Once, when it was thought that a prisoner had escaped (who was later found drowned in the latrine), the guards chose 10 men to execute as a punishment. Father Kolbe was not one of them. However, one of the ten who was chosen cried out in despair about the fate of his wife. Father Kolbe had compassion. He asked the commandant to allow him to take the man's place. The commandant allowed it. Kolbe endured two straight weeks without any food and virtually no water. The Lord sustained him. Finally, he was killed by a lethal injection. The man whose place he took lived to be 95 years old. Now, did God's promises to Father

Kolbe fail? **Certainly not.** They were simply fulfilled in a **different and greater way than** he could have ever foreseen.

We must always remember that it is **according to God's wisdom** that *"all these things will be added to you."* He has said that He will work all things together for your everlasting good. And sometimes what is best for your **everlasting** good, and the good **of others**, is to **bear the cross in this world. Remember the earthly serves the eternal, not the other way around.** The Father never wants the passing things of this life to become a *hindrance* to your eternal life, so that you serve mammon and perish forever. And so sometimes He does multiply the flour, and men walk out of fiery furnaces and lions' dens with their body intact. But **at other times** your heavenly Father brings His children to Himself through suffering, by bullets, starvation, tyrants, or disease. But in every case, **faith trusts and knows** that He is good and His steadfast love endures forever. So when our Lord says "do not be anxious about what you will eat or drink or wear," He is giving you the true and proper perspective. He holds all things in His hands, most especially **your eternal welfare.**

Your heavenly Father knows what you need, **better than you know it yourself.** Dream your dreams and plan your plans all you want, but you cannot add a single second to your life. The Lord **gives** and the Lord **takes away.** Blessed be the Name of the Lord. The Lord **provides.** He **feeds** His children, not just with **bread and meat and ice cream**, but especially with His righteousness. He gives what we truly need: the forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, immortality.

How can we be anxious about food when we have the Lord's life-giving Body and Blood? How can we worry about new clothes and the latest fashions when we've been **robed in Christ** and wrapped up in **His righteousness**? Having these things, **we have it all**, even if we are here in **poverty.** For we have the sure promise that these perishable bodies will be clothed with the imperishable, that we will put on immortality in the resurrection of our bodies on the Last Day. And we will take part in the feast of salvation, the **marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom that has no end.**

CONCLUSION So if you still struggle with sorrows and anxieties, know that through them **the Lord is guiding you**, keeping you close to Himself. He is not done with you. Your faith is not yet full. You still have loving works to perform, prayers to pray, testimonies to give, things to learn. But He **always** provides. He **always** forgives. He **always** loves. The Lord who gave His Son into death to have you as His own, the Lord who marched through Hell with the remnants of the devil's crushed head stuck to His heel, the Lord who emptied the grave of its sting, the living Lord of Life, He will not forget you. He will not miss a single detail. He hears and answers all your prayers.

Do not worry. (Be happy. ☺) You are **worth more far more** than sparrows or lilies. Your Lord is ever **faithful**, ever **true**, ever **merciful** and kind. Come to His Table. Be joined to heaven. And that will be sufficient for the day. **I'N, Amen. SDG**

POSSIBLE Prayer of Church ☺ 15th Sunday after Trinity Sept. 13th 2015
Blessed are those who dwell in God's house, ever singing His praise. Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O God, You have set before us Your reign and Your righteousness in the person of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us always look to Him who has saved us from our sins, constantly seeking Him above all things. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, You have clothed creation in glorious dress, and all the more You provide for all of our needs, both of body and soul. Forgive us for our times of anxiety and worry. Help us to always look to You for all good things, trusting that You, our loving heavenly Father, will never leave us without the things we need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You have poured out Your Spirit on Your Church, that the Gospel of Your kingdom would be believed throughout the world. Bless the proclamation of Your Word by the pastors and missionaries whom You have called and sent, that many would hear and believe. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have prepared an abundance of good works in advance for us to do in Your Name. Help us in our daily lives to work hard, pay an honest wage and be a blessing for our employers, employees and customers. Help us not to seek wealth for the sake of ourselves, but teach us rightly to use Your gifts to us for the benefit of our neighbors. Have mercy on those who are unemployed, that they would entrust their days and burdens to Your Fatherly hand. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, guard and keep the President of the USA, the Governor of Florida, and all the rulers of our land, that they would rule according to Your will and righteous decrees. Guard and keep those who serve in our Armed Forces (**David & Rachel Divine**), and send them faithful chaplains who would comfort them with the forgiveness of their sins in Jesus Christ. Bring our nation to repentance for those things that we celebrate that are contrary to Your will, especially the scourge of abortion and the destruction of marriage. *Lord, in Y...*

O Lord, according to Your will, give power to the faint and increase the strength of those who are sick, suffering or afflicted in any way [*especially* ___]

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
OSL & Peace Lutheran		Pray the Lord directs us in our future/s (Vacancy)
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daugh.)	High platelets, tests for blood diseases
Don Bires	(Linda)	Don goes in for oral surgery (new teeth) Monday
Jim & Elma Hendricks		Elma still recovering, she and James at home
Linda Kryszak		Still recuperating at home. Has a degenerative disc
Dee Kurczewski		Pray for relief. Dee fell, broke 3 ribs, recovering at home
Mary, Pam & Karen		All friends, family of Donna Martin, all battling cancer
Vivian Temple	(Tom)	Vivian is (back) in hospital with inflamed gall bladder

Guard and keep all those near death from those things that would plague their consciences and bring them to doubt and despair. Comfort those who mourn with the certain hope of the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend into Your hands all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen. Then, "Our Father..."**