

The theme for today is “Give me a break!”

That’s how you and I would feel if we sat down with Jesus and asked him what we need to do to inherit eternal life. And then got this response: “You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

Now, some of us might be willing to do what Jesus is asking. But it’s a very high bar, isn’t it? Most of us, if not all, would find that condition, that requirement, that expectation, beyond our means or beyond our wishes or both. We simply are not going to sell all that we have and then give all to the poor. We don’t want to do it. Because there are already too many people who rely on my assets. And I also have needs. I don’t want to sell all that I have.

In short, “Give me a break!”

This is a really interesting phrase. It has two ingredients. “Give me” and “a break.” Verb and noun. What’s missing here? That’s right. “Please” is missing.

“**Please** give.” That’s a much better approach to the Lord. The Lord doesn’t have to give us anything. The Lord could ignore our request. But the Lord chooses to give us, whether we say “please” or not. That’s the Lord’s Nature. A Nature which, frankly, we rely on. We would be in an even bigger mess without this Loving Nature.

Yes, we’re in enough of a mess, even with God’s Loving nature. But God is used to this behavior, this shortfall, this “give me break” language. God gave us freedom, so God shouldn’t be surprised that we might misuse the freedom or take it for granted. What God is hoping for is that we won’t take His Love for granted, but rather that we will give thanks by sharing that Love.

For you and me, “Yet another chance” is our biggest prayer. And, in Jesus, that prayer has been answered. “Dear Lord, we know what we ought to do, but sometimes we fail to do it. We’re a little casual about our relationship with You.” Sometimes more than casual. Yes, sometimes we just assume Your love.

And, yes, sometimes you remind us in a variety of ways, that rather than assuming, we should show our appreciation by helping others.

## **Morning Prayer – Pentecost 18 - Sunday – September 22, 2024**

### **Hymn 475 – God himself is with us**

God himself is with us; let us all adore him, and with awe appear before him.  
God is here within us; souls in silence fear him, humbly, fervently draw near him.  
Now his own who have known God, in worship; lowly, yield their spirits wholly.

Gladly, Lord, we offer thine to be forever, soul of life and each endeavor.  
Help us to surrender earth's deceitful treasures, pride of life, and sinful pleasures:  
thou alone shalt be known Lord of all our being, life's true way decreeing.

Thou pervadest all things; let thou radiant beauty light mine eyes to see my duty.  
As the tender flowers eagerly unfold them, to the sunlight calmly hold them,  
so let me quietly in thy arrays imbue me; let thy light shine through me.

Come abide within me; let my soul, like Mary be thine earthly sanctuary.  
Come, indwelling Spirit, with transfiguring splendor; love and honor will I render.  
Where I go here below, let me bow before thee, know thee, and adore thee.

### **BCP - Page 39 – Greeting**

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

### **BCP – Pages 41 – Invitation to Confession**

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel or sit in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite good and mercy.

### **BCP – Pages 41-42 – Confession and Absolution – kneeling or sitting**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

*The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **BCP – Page 44 – Venite**

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;  
    let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,  
    and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God,  
    and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth,  
    and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it,  
    and his hands prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down  
    and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God,  
    and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
    let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,  
    and with righteousness to judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

### **Psalm 54**

Save me, O God, by your Name; *in your might, defend my cause.*  
Hear my prayer, O God; *give ear to the words of my mouth.*  
For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
*those who have no regard for God.*  
Behold, God is my helper; *it is the Lord who sustains my life.*  
Render evil to those who spy on me; *in your faithfulness, destroy them.*  
I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.*  
For you have rescued me from every trouble, *and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.*

**First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22**

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death for, according to what says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

**Second Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes, and say, "Have seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### **Hymn 288 – Father eternal**

Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days;  
bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ:  
all to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow.

All the plenty summer pours; autumn's rich o'er flowing stores;  
flocks that whiten all the plain; yellow sheaves of ripened grain:  
Lord, for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.

As thy prospering hand hath blessed, may we give thee of our best;  
and by deeds of kindly love for thy mercies grateful prove;  
singing thus through all our days praise to God, immortal praise.

**Gospel: Mark 9:30-37**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcome one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise be to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon** – The Rev. Charles Rowins

**BCP – page 53 - The Apostles' Creed - standing**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

**BCP – page 54 – the Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

Kneeling or sitting, let us pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **BCP – page 55 – Suffrages A**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*And grant us thy salvation.*

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

And make thy chosen people joyful.

Give peace, O Lord in all the world;

*For only in thee can we live in safety.*

Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

*And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Let thy way be known upon earth;

*Thy saving health among all nations.*

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.*

### **Collect for Pentecost 18**

Grant us, O Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, fore ever an ever. *Amen.*

### **BCP – page 58 - The General Thanksgiving**



*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-  
kindness to us and to all men.*

*We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord  
Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our  
hearts we may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not  
only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by  
walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory,  
world without end. Amen.*

**BCP – page 59 – Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our  
common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that  
when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them:  
Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us;  
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life  
everlasting. *Amen.*

**Announcements – seated – flowers .....**

**Hymn 717 - America – portions of stanzas 1 and 3 - standing**

*My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;  
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside  
let freedom ring.*

**BCP – page 834 – Prayer for After Worship – remain standing**

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day  
with our outward ears, may, through thy grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts,  
that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of thy  
Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**BCP – page 59 – The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

**Hymn 529 – In Christ there is no East or West**

In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!  
Who serve my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North,  
all Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

