

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 9:14-29

“...All things are possible for one who believes.” Vs. 23

“All things are possible for one who believes” (Mk. 9:23). Jesus’ words expose our sin. These words come after he’s already called the crowd a “*faithless generation*” (Mk. 9:19). The Apostle Paul will go on to tell us “*Whatever is not of faith is sin*” (Ro. 14:23b). Sin is the absence of faith; sins are the symptoms of faith’s absence. If, as Jesus tells his disciples, a mere grain of faith no bigger than a mustard seed will move mountains or cast a tree into the ocean (Lk. 17:6 & Mt. 17:20), then even the disciples must be numbered among that “*faithless generation*.” This is a hard word for us to hear. We who aspire to faithfulness... we who look to those disciples for examples on how to grow our own faith... We who are sons and daughters of the Old Adam and Eve are confronted with the reality that the flesh of this old creation which is passing away has no capacity for faith in anything but itself. Jesus Christ, who is our life (Gal. 2:20), provides the faith we need through the Great Exchange. God himself is faithful even though we cannot be. Out of God’s faithfulness, Jesus Christ has come to be our faith and the one in whom all things are possible.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 116:1-9

All: I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

North: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Women: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

Men: I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

Women: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Men: The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Women: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Men: For you have delivered my soul from death,

Women: my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

All: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.



Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-10

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. (Gospel on reverse of Prayer.List)

Salem's News & Family Events

Rally Day Sunday
September 19th at 9:30
Come celebrate the beginning
of Sunday School with
Blessing of the Backpacks &
Registration for
Sunday School & Ice Cream



Last Week



Salem's Service Leadership Team

Pr. Paul Fiske
Pr. Ellen Erdman
Nicolas Williams
Hans Erdman

While our Call Committee searches for a new pastor, we first take a moment to thank our Lord for placing in our midst these wonderful, spirit-filled folks...members-all...who will be stepping into the pulpit to provide us all with excellent services each Sunday.
Thanks, Team!!



GRINABLES

- What kind of music are balloons afraid of? ...Pop Music
- What did Beethoven say to Johann Sebastian when he was helping him parallel park? "*Bach it up.*"
- Where did the music teacher leave her keys? In the piano.
- Me and my friends are in a band called "*Duvel*". We're a cover band.
- C, E-flat, and G walk into a bar. The bartender shows them the door and says, "*Sorry, we don't serve minors.*"
- What's an avocado's favorite music? Guac 'n' roll.
- What do you get when you drop a piano down a mineshaft? A-flat minor.
- What do you call a cow that can play a musical instrument?
.....A moo-sician.
- What did Jay-Z call his wife before they got married? Feyonce.
- Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys? He was playing by ear.

