

The Struggle With Struggle

October 18, 2026 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

We all long for days and life events that run smoothly. The hiccups and stumbling blocks that work their way into daily life are unwelcome. The struggles and downright battles are even more unwelcome. Can the Lord bring blessing to the struggle? Or perhaps even through the struggle? What can we learn from Jacob's struggle with the Lord in our Old Testament Lesson this morning?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"Battle Belongs"

WORDS OF CONFESSION

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: The Lord will keep us from all harm – He will watch over our lives.

P: The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

WE SING

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

WE PRAY

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 32:22-30

²²That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that He could not overpower him, He touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let You go unless you bless me."

²⁷The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask My name?" Then He blessed him there.

³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 18:1-8

¹Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "

⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO KINDERGARTENERS AND PARENTS

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

WE PRAY

WE SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF PREPARATION

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE SING

"Goodness of God"

"You Never Let Go"

COMMUNION BLESSING

WE SING

"Yes He Can"

THE CLOSING BLESSING

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good!

We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.