

*Is it not lawful for
me to do what I
wish with my own
things? Or is your
eye evil because
I am good?
-Matthew 20:15*



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD
4513 WILLIAMS ROAD, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116
www.redeemerfw.org

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020

Pastor
Church

David A. Grassley
(817) 560-0030



WELCOME! It is our hope that no one feels like a stranger in this house of worship. May each of us be open to friendship and acceptance as God's children. Welcome! If you choose not to wear a face covering, please sit on the left-hand side of the Sanctuary. Thank you.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US, WE GREET YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, and invite you to return soon. We are very glad you came.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CHURCH HOME OF YOUR OWN, we invite you to become a member of our church family. (Please check the appropriate section of the friendship register.)

IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED OR HAVE DIFFICULTY HEARING THE SERVICE, please mention this to an usher, and he will seat you and set up headphones for you.

THERE IS A CRY ROOM FOR CHILDREN, UNDER 3 YEARS OF AGE, LOCATED DOWN THE HALL FROM THE NARTHEX.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated today. In this Sacrament we receive two natural elements (bread and wine) and two supernatural elements (the body and blood of our Lord) for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Scripture clearly teaches, however, that a person can take the Lord's body and blood to his own judgment (1 Corinthians 11:29-30). Out of sincere concern for all who attend our services, we commune only members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and members of sister Missouri Synod congregations. If you are a member of a sister congregation, please speak to an elder or the pastor before communing.

P = Pastor Speaks

C – Congregation Responds

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

LSB, page 184 with Communion

Silent Prayer

Please remain silent during the Prelude in respect for those in prayer. Thank you.

Prelude

Please Stand

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 525

Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.

- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

4 Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on High,

♪ **C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

♪ **C** And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ **C** Amen.

Please Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on
him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will

be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Alleluia and Verse

♪ **C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Please Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16 (NKJV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

♪ **C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’

⁸ “So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ ⁹ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. ¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ ¹⁶ So

the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ **[C]** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

[C] I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Please Sit

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

LSB 555

Salvation unto Us Has Come (Odd Verses)

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

- 3 It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.
- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

Sermon

Pastor Grassley

“Is Your Eye Evil Because I am Good?”

(Text: Matthew 20:1-16, NKJV)

Please Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Offertory

LSB 192

♪ **C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Please Sit

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Please record your attendance with us today by filling out the friendship form located inside the maroon folder that is at the end of each pew. After recording your attendance please pass the folder on to the person next to you.

Gathering of the Offering

Please Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Each time the Pastor says, “...Lord in Your mercy”, the congregational response is:

C Hear our prayer. (Spoken)

At the end of the prayers...

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. (*Spoken*)

Service of the Sacrament

Please note: On the basis of Holy Scripture, it is the practice of Redeemer Lutheran Church to admit only the communicant members of Redeemer to the Lord's Supper. If you are a communicant member of a sister Missouri Synod congregation, please speak to the Pastor or one of our Elders about communing.

Use the questions below to examine yourself prior to receiving Communion.

Questions for self-examination:

- **Do I truly repent of my sins?**
- **Do I truly trust in Jesus Christ alone as my Savior?**
- **Do I truly believe the bread and wine are the true body and blood of Christ?**
- **Do I truly intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life?**

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

♪ **C** **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

♪ **C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

♪ **C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

♪ **C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ♪ **C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- ♪ **C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Please Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

LSB 625

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
 May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
 In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
 Give me Your grace and mercy.

- 2 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
 To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
 Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
 To share Your cup of healing.

- 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
 For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
 In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
 Assured of Your full pardon.

4 I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

The Clouds of Judgment Gather

LSB 513

1 The clouds of judgment gather,
The time is growing late;
Be sober and be watchful,
Our judge is at the gate:
The judge who comes in mercy,
The judge who comes in might
To put an end to evil
And diadem the right.

2 Arise, O true disciples;
Let wrong give way to right,
And penitential shadow
To Jesus' blessed light:
The light that has no evening,
That knows no moon or sun,
The light so new and golden,
The light that is but one.

3 The home of fadeless splendor,
Of blooms that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children
Who here as exiles mourn;
The peace of all the faithful,
The calm of all the blest,
Inviolable, unfading,
Divinest, sweetest, best.

4 Oh, happy, holy portion,
Relief for all distressed,
True vision of true beauty,
Refreshment for the blest!
Strive now to win that glory,
Toil now to gain that light;
Send hope ahead to grasp it
Till hope be lost in sight.

Please Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

♪ **C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

♪ **C** **and His mercy endureth forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ **C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.

♪ **C** **And with thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

♪ **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

♪ **C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

Almighty Father, Bless the Word

- 1 Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

- 2 We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.

- 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Greeting

Postlude



Assisting in the service this morning: Pastor David Grassley; Organist, Dr. Pamela Butler; Assistant Organist, David Preston; Lector, Al Rearick; Ladies of the Altar Guild.

The flowers are placed to the glory of God.

Portals of Prayer for October-December 2020 are in the case by the narthex. Be sure and pick up your copy today.

If you have not contacted the Church Office to let us know if you will be attending Pastor Grassley's Retirement Celebration, please be sure and sign-up on the sheet on the Church News bulletin board in the narthex. We need to know right away. Thanks.

A note from the Gonzalez's: "We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, calls and especially your prayers recently concerning the passing of my dad. Your thoughts were greatly appreciated in our time of need. " Sincerely, Jerry and Cathy Gonzalez

Christian Education:

LifeLight: It isn't too late to join us! *Triune God* is held Wednesdays from 2:00 – 3:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The class is nine consecutive sessions so we will finish on November 11th. Please let us know if you wish to attend. See Donna Riccono or Melody Smith if you have any questions.

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study is reading and discussing the book *The Reason I Believe – The Basics of Christian Apologetics*, by Allen Quist, published by Concordia, and available from CPH.org and other sources. Please consider joining us on Wednesday evenings. We meet in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm. If you have any questions, call Mark Drewes at 817-613-8538.

Whole Person Health Ministry:

BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, October 4th, from 12 noon to 3:40 pm for last donor: Family Life Center. Please consider donating. The procedure will be to contact me for an assigned time. Right now, we have 1 pm available for first donors and can schedule approximately 2 – 3 every 20 minutes. It is fine to go out for lunch and return at your appointment time. One must wear a mask into the building. I am not clear as to whether you must keep it on during the actual donation. Masks will be available if you do not

have one. As usual bring your personal ID and the usual temp and blood check will be done. We will have water available and I think Carter will provide the usual snacks. Let me know if you can donate at our drive, barring the unforeseen between now and 10/4. Remember: you will automatically have a Covid-19 Antibody test done on your blood donation and you will be informed of the results personally. Let me know of any questions. Donna Riccono, RN, Parish Nurse – 817-999-3253 Faith Community Nursing

Memory Verse

Matthew 20:15-16

¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good? ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.

This Week's Prayer

A morning prayer:

Thank You, heavenly Father, for setting Your angel to guard my slumber during the night past and for the day of grace and service into which You have awakened me. Keep me steadfast in the awareness of Your protection and in faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Lord, make me mindful of the temptations of sinful care, selfishness, and impure desires, which beset me on every side and from within. Help me in this hour to put on anew the armor of light, that I may be fitted with every weapon of offense and defense against the perils that threaten my spiritual life. Let Your Gospel call me with new sweetness to be reconciled to You, let Your Spirit call me with new power to follow You. Teach me to live this day as though it is my last on earth, knowing that whether I live or whether I die I am present with You. Be my Protector, my Guide, and my Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

From Lutheran Book of Prayer, page 40.

Activities at Redeemer This Week

| | | |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Youth Group Meeting |
| Tuesday | 8:30 am | Be Stronger, Live Longer (FLC) |
| | 10:00 am | Tuesday Morning Bible Study (PH) |
| | 2:00 pm | Gina McGee Homeschool Event (PH) |
| Wednesday | 10:00 am | Quilting |
| | 2:00 pm | LifeLight Bible Study (PH) |
| | 7:00 pm | Wednesday Eve. Bible Study (PH) |

Please remember in your prayers: **Members:** Bettye Baird; Diana Breitenfield; Pam Butler; Elaine deTurck; Frances Graham; Martha Kitzmann; Eva Merritt; Gene Morones; Rev. Richard Nelson; Lori Penning; Judy Pitre; Charles Ruhmann; John Schatte; Alan Schaubhut; Lucille Skehan; Bill Skokan; David Thomas; Randy Thomas; Stormi Thomas. **Relatives of members:** Jan Anderson; Bill Baird; Janet Bliss; Susan Boudreaux; Gayle & Tommy Bradshaw; Meril Christenson; Jocelynn Collins; Dean Crocket; Shirley English; Pat Garnet; Andrew Graham; Glen Hammett; Craig & Trina Hotaling; Jeanette Hutchinson; Arleen Hayek; Debbie Hyden; Natalie Janssen; Louetta Lewis; Peggy Madison; Meryl McKinney; Alison McMurray; Chuck Merritt; Kevin Neville; Lynda Quirey; Jason Rearick; Ryan Robinette; Meadow Rose Rosete; John Sergent; Brian Stevens; Matthew and Shantel Schatte; Jacob Thomas; Danielle Tyus; Scotty Walker. **Friends of members:** Ember Luyk; Kelley Adams; John Allison; Sammie Atwell; Haily Batson; Dawn Brown; Renee Brown; Joseph Burdick; Julie Buchanan; Elinore Cocca; Dan Crofts; Jolene Crowe; Lauren DiGiovanni; Mike & Joan Garcia; Parker Garret; Candy & Bruce Grantham; Patricia Hill; Aimee Hoelscher; Larry Hoffman; Nancy Hood; Kyle Hopkins; Jerry Howard; Jill Jenkins; The Aaron Johnson Family; Arlie Judd; Telina Manbek; Charlene Marroquin; Liam McKay; Michael McDaniel; Julie Miranda; Marshall Martinez; Lynda Nagel; Jed Oidtman; Deann Pearson & Family; Linda Riojas and daughters, Zoe and Sage; Camilla Stephens; Dannette Taylor; Tina Taylor; Tristen Woolsey.



Real Sloth



I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (John 9:4)

Some creatures are so bizarre that they suggest a lesson to us. Yet, even in their strangeness, we see that they have been perfectly provided for by their Creator.

One such example is the three-toed sloth. It rarely moves, spending about 18 hours a day sleeping upside down in a tree. When it does bother to move, it is in ultra-slow motion. It is not real unusual for the three-toed sloth to take 30 seconds to shift one leg a few inches.

The three-toed sloth doesn't do well on the ground because he can't walk or even crawl. If a sloth is placed on the ground, it v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y pulls itself along on its belly to a tree. However, sloths hang effortlessly in the trees even when asleep. Their grasp of the tree is so solid that they continue to hang in the trees even after they have died.

Even though sloths are hunted for food by the South American Indians, the three-toed sloth is the most abundant tree-dwelling mammal in South America's forests. Because its life doesn't seem to amount to much, it was named after one of the so-called seven deadly sins. This creature, that has a face only a mother could love, presents an image with which neither child nor adult would want to be associated. Yet, the sloth still has God's care. The nearly helpless condition of the sloth reminds us that we are completely helpless when it comes to our relationship with God. Only because of the efforts of our Savior, Jesus Christ, do we have peace with God. Let's not be slothful about telling others of the forgiveness of sins!

Ref: Wilder, R. "When laziness pays off." 1983. Science Digest. p. 112. Photo: Pixabay.

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