

Matthew 18, 15-20

My Brother's Keeper

Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

September 6, 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18)



Elijah's God is My God Too!

Today: My Brother's Keeper

"Minding my own business," is not the business of our Savior and so it can't be ours either – not when it comes to the eternal future of our family members, our friends and neighbors, and fellow members of Christ's Church. Today Jesus teaches how to love and restore "when your brother or sister sins against you."

August 2 – My Provider (1 Kings 17:1-6)

August 9 – My Strength (1 Kings 19:9-18)

August 16 – OUR Salvation (1 Kings 17:7-24)

August 23 – My Confession (1 Kings 18:21ff.)

August 30 – My Courage to Carry My Cross (1 Kings 18:1-15)

September 6 – My King's Keeper (1 Kings 20:17-28)



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace
in Yorba Linda, California, the land of gracious living*

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CALL TO WORSHIP

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: *Intro...*

C: ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

² Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

M: *Announcement of forgiveness...*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church;
and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect
and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

The joy of forgiveness moves the Psalm writer to teach and tell others the path of God's mercy and the joy of God's people.

PSALM 32 *continues*

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.

¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

THE GOSPEL READING

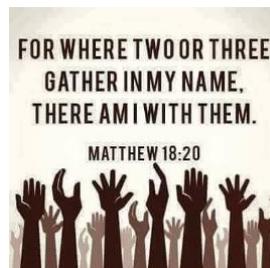
Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus gives us the privilege and the power to restore our brother or sister in Christ when they have strayed.

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."





- 1** To God be the glory; great things he has done!
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory—great things he has done!**

- 2** Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

- 3** Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.



SERMON READING:

1 Kings 21:17-28

**ELIJAH'S GOD
is MY GOD too!**

**Minding My
King's Business**

Knowing his
justice

and

Celebrating his
mercy

¹⁷Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸“Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ¹⁹Say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

²⁰Ahab said to Elijah, “So you have found me, my enemy!”

“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. ²¹He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. ²²I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.’

²³“And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’

²⁴“Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country.”

²⁵(There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. ²⁶He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)

²⁷When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

²⁸Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹“Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

Offerings are part of our worship life and our life in the church. Moved by the three fold blessing of God, Christians cheerfully give and give generously so others may know the precious message of Jesus. During this time of social distancing, your offering may be left at the door or mailed or you may give online at www.gracelutheran.church.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

We offer our prayers today, asking, Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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 BLESSING

M: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD makes his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with his favor and give you his peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

In Unity and Peace (#773)

Refrain

Text (refrain):

Psalm 133:1, alt.

Text (verses): 1

Corinthians 1:10;

Ephesians 4:1-

3,5,6; Philippians

2:2-4, alt.

How good it is and how pleasant to live in unity and peace.

How good it is and how pleasant to live together in one Lord.

1 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, agree in ev'rything you say.

May there be no divisions among you, but be united in one mind.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

Refrain

2 Live a life that is worthy of your call; be humble, gentle, and patient.

Bear with each other in ways that are loving; preserve the unity of faith.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

Refrain

3 Share the love that has joined us as one; unite in spirit and ideals.

Never be rivals; do not be conceited, but look to others in their need.

For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

Refrain

CALENDAR

Monday – Church Council – 7 PM

Thursday - Bible Study online – 10 AM or 7 PM

Sunday worship – online (at your convenience) or in person? Stay tuned.

*September 26 – California Lutheran High School golf outing
(check their website)*