

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8-30-20

Delight yourself in the LORD,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

and your justice as the noonday.

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Delight yourself in the LORD,

and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Collect

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[Proverbs 3:1-8] My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart,² for they will give you a long and satisfying life.³ Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you! Wear them like a necklace; write them deep within your heart.⁴ Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation.⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.⁶ Seek his will

in all you do, and he will direct your paths. ⁷ Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn your back on evil. ⁸ Then you will gain renewed health and vitality.

[Romans 12:9 – 21] Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection,¹ and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. ¹³ When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night. ¹⁴ If people persecute you because you are a Christian, don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ When others are happy, be happy with them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible. ¹⁹ Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it," says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, do what the Scriptures say: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink, and they will be ashamed of what they

have done to you." ²¹ Don't let evil get the best of you, but conquer evil by doing good.

[Matthew 16:21-26] From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that he had to go to Jerusalem, and he told them what would happen to him there. He would suffer at the hands of the leaders and the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, and he would be raised on the third day. ²² But Peter took him aside and corrected him. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, and not from God's." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. ²⁶ And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?"