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| **Nursery today:** | Dawn O'Banion, Shaz Beal, Elisabeth Miller |
| **Next Sunday:** | Susan Miller, Nikki Jones, Sam Ea |

*Helpers, please be in the nursery by 10:20 to receive children.*

# Reflection

**W**orks? Works?
A man get to heaven by works?
I would as soon think
of climbing to the moon
on a rope of sand!

— George Whitefield

**W**hile it is faith alone that justifies,
the faith that justifies is never alone.

— John Calvin

**A**s the apple is not the cause of the apple tree, but a fruit of it: even so good works are not the cause of our salvation, but a sign and a fruit of the same.

— Daniel Cawdray

**Prelude**

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Trinitarian Confession and Salutation**

**Call to Worship** Genesis 1:26–2:3

God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

**Psalm 8** *Trinity Psalter*

**Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

**Call to Confession of Sin** James 2:14–18

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**Corporate Confession of Sin and Supplication for Mercy** *(unison)*

Holy Father, Great God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, we confess our sins before you today. You created us for your glory, yet we have failed both to glorify you and to enjoy you. You redeemed us through the death of our Lord Jesus on the cross, yet we have failed to be faithful, to acknowledge your work of grace in our hearts, to seek to obey you and to extend your Kingdom. You sustain all things by your gracious and all–wise Providence, yet we have been stumbling–blocks, wallowing in our sin and arrogance and self–righteousness. Forgive us for our lack of compassion and generosity and devotion, for our false faith which has borne no fruit,

for our obsessions and addictions and dissension and self–centeredness and laziness. Grant us the blessing of being able to worship and work to your glory, resting in Christ alone and laboring on his behalf with true joy. Amen.

**Declaration of Forgiveness** Titus 3:4–8

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

***The Doxology*** (#731) *Trinity Hymnal*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Reading of Scripture** Matthew 20:1–16

10 "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire
laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them
into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the
marketplace, 4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give
you.' 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.
6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why
do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to
them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to
his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'
9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now
when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also
received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying,
'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the
burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing
you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I
choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with
what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first
last."

Matthew 25:14–36

14 "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his
property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with
them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents
more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's
money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with
them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more,
saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21 His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I
will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents
came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents
more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful

over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Hymn** Come, You Souls, By Sin Afflicted

Come, you souls, by sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross behold the crown!
Look to Jesus, look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through him alone.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly–opened eyes,
Flowing springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest the cross supplies;
All who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

Blessed are the eyes that see him;
Blest the ears that hear his voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust him,
And in him alone rejoice;
His commandments, his commandments
Then become their happy choice.

But to sing the "Rest remaining"
Mortal tongues far short must fall;
Heavenly tongues are ever aiming,
But they cannot tell it all;
Faith believes it, hope expects it,
But it overwhelms them all.

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Is the rest the cross supplies.

**Heidelberg Catechism:** ***Lord's Day 24 (Questions 62–64)***

**62 Q. Why can't the good we do**
**make us right with God,**
**or at least help make us right with him?**

A. Because the righteousness
which can pass God's scrutiny
must be entirely perfect
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.
Even the very best we do in this life
is imperfect
and stained with sin.

**63 Q. How can you say that the good we do**
doesn't earn anything
when God promises to reward it
in this life and the next?

A. This reward is not earned;
it is a gift of grace.

**64 Q. But doesn't this teaching**
**make people indifferent and wicked?**

**A.** No.
It is impossible
for those grafted into Christ by true faith
not to produce fruits of gratitude.

**Preaching of the Word** Rev. John Canales

**Sermon Text:** Ephesians 2:1–10

1 You were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course
of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the
sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying
out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of
mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5
even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you
have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places
in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his
grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through
faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one
may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God
prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Prayer of Intercession**

**Hymn 461** Not What My Hands Have Done *Trinity Hymnal*

**Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed** p. 845, *Trinity Hymnal*

***The Gloria Patri*** (#735) *Trinity Hymnal*

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

*Hymn — During the bread* Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured

Let thy blood in mercy poured,
Let thy gracious body broken,
Be to me, O gracious Lord,
Of thy boundless love the token.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

Thou didst die that I might live;
Blessèd Lord, thou cam'st to save me:
All that love of God could give
Jesus by his sorrows gave me.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

By the thorns that crowned thy brow,
By the spear wound and the nailing,
By the pain and death, I now
Claim, O Christ, thy love unfailing.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

Wilt thou own the gift I bring?
All my penitence I give thee;
Thou art my exalted King,
Of thy matchless love forgive me.
Thou didst give thyself for me,
Now I give myself to thee.

*Scripture Reading — During the cup* Hebrews 4

While the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

"As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'"

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said,

"They shall not enter my rest."

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. [9] So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two–edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)***

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**The Collection of Alms and Tithes**

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| **Hymn 263** | Lift High the Cross | *Trinity Psalter* |

**The Benediction**