

A PATIENT SAVIOR FOR AN IMPATIENT WORLD

Luke 9:51-56

To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Today we look to our Savior's words in the ninth chapter of Luke beginning with the 51st verse, as follows:

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village. This is the Word of God.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Who bids us Christians *bring forth fruit with patience*, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

If there's one disease that especially afflicts our world of 2025, it has to be chronic impatience. Americans don't like to wait. Our hurry-up culture places a premium on speed and convenience, often at the expense of more important things like kindness, and patience, and good manners. If you don't believe me, try taking eleven items into the ten-items-or-less line at the grocery store, and see what kind of reaction you get from the people behind you. And the technology revolution has only made our impatience worse. A recent Pew study says that our hyper-connected world has led people to expect instant gratification of their every desire, and to be very unhappy if they don't get it—the study actually compared it to the effect of drugs. You can now stream movies to your phone, of course—but even that had better be fast. Another study showed that most viewers will abandon a movie or video if it doesn't load within ten seconds.

Impatience may be worse than it ever was, but it's certainly not new. In our account for today we have a monumental example of impatience that took place nearly two thousand years ago. By way of contrast, we're also shown the longsuffering mercy of God's chosen Redeemer, Jesus Christ. If you've felt your patience fraying at the edges lately – if you've found yourself impatiently lashing out at someone you know, or even to God! – then you may find today's passage is especially helpful for you. This morning we consider the theme:

A PATIENT SAVIOR FOR AN IMPATIENT WORLD

- I. The Samaritans were impatient to be rid of Jesus.
- II. The disciples were impatient to be rid of the Samaritans.
- III. Jesus patiently offers salvation to one and all.

It was not long before Jesus' passion was set to commence. The Savior was on his final journey from Galilee up to Jerusalem. This was the closing scene in our Savior's life, that final period which would end with His glorious Ascension back to the right hand of God in heaven. Jesus knew what awaited him in Jerusalem. But he went calmly forward. He was patient—but He was about the only one who was! Everyone else seemed to be in a hurry. The Samaritans, for instance. They were impatient. **They were impatient to be rid of Jesus.** *Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.*

The Samaritans knew who Jesus was. By this time everyone in Palestine did. And because they were a sect at odds with the Jewish religion, they had no time for this Jewish Messiah, who was on his way to the Jewish capital. Other travelers they would receive, albeit grudgingly. But not Jesus. Once again for Jesus, there was no room at the inn. Jesus once said, *Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.* Here was the fulfilling of the prophesy in Isaiah, *He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

So many people in our day and age have the same attitude toward Jesus. They have no room for Him in their lives. They are offended by a

Savior who forces them to confront their own sin. So they tell him to keep moving, to take his message somewhere else. As the Roman governor Felix said to Paul, *I will call for you when I have a more convenient time*. But the more convenient time never comes. Are we like that? Not receiving Jesus when we have the opportunity? Shunting Him aside, allowing the rush of our daily lives to crowd Him out, unwilling to accept the demands of real discipleship? *Impatient to be rid of Jesus*? May it never be! The last passage in our text is one of the most stark and chilling in all of scripture. *And they went to another village*. Rejected by this community of Samaritans, Christ and his Gospel went elsewhere. How would you like to be them on the Last Day? How terrible on the Day of Judgment to be known as the town that rejected Jesus! Can you imagine? "We had the Savior at our city limits, and we told him to go away!" God forbid that we, through unbelief or indifference, may ever tell our Savior to go away!

Jesus own disciples were little better. While the Samaritans were impatient to be rid of Jesus, **the disciples were impatient to be rid of the Samaritans.**

When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" James and John were quite possibly the two messengers Jesus sent into the town. In any case, they were outraged at the town's cavalier rejection of the Savior. By the way, what do you think it was that made them think of the prophet Elijah? They had just seen Elijah with their own eyes a few days previously, on the mount of transfiguration! And they were well acquainted with the account from II Kings in which Elijah called down fire from heaven and consumed the soldiers sent to him by the wicked king Ahaziah. By the way, that "fire from heaven" was not lightning, as some modern scholars try to explain it away. Lightning indeed can kill, but it does not consume. It does not completely burn up everything it touches, as did the fire which God caused to fall from heaven in the Old Testament. And this consuming fire was the exact punishment that the impatient disciples James and John had in mind for the Samaritans.

Again, as Christians, we need to be warned and admonished by the example of these overzealous disciples. Some people call this the "brother of the prodigal son syndrome." It describes the self righteous contempt that many religious people bear toward the non-religious. But did Jesus commend James and John for their zeal? No. Rather He *turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."* Last

week saw the tenth anniversary of the supreme court decision approving gay marriage. I vividly recall when that ruling came down. It left many Christians feeling stunned and isolated. It was a heavy blow, and some may have felt an impulse to lash out in anger; to strike a return blow.

But we are not to be governed by the spirit of revenge and anger. We are governed by the Holy Spirit. We want to adopt that Savior's heart of forbearance and patience and love toward our fellow man, even those who have rejected Christ so far. Why? Because there may yet be hope for them! It is God, not us, and who sets the time of grace for all mankind. Like the disciples, we may become impatient with the indifference and scorn that our society shows toward our Savior and His Word. But we can safely leave it in the hands of the Lord. As the psalmist writes, *Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. Psalm 37:7-9.*

What is it that compels you here at St. Paul Lutheran Church to be patient, and to wait on the Lord? What is it that keeps you reaching out with the Gospel here in this community? That's easy. *The love of Christ compels us*. We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. And in our text for today we see and hear **a Savior Who patiently offers salvation to one and all.**

I'd like to back up once again to verse 51 in our text. So much is revealed there. *Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.* What great patience lies in that sentence alone! Think for a moment of some of the difficult experiences you've gone through in your life. Now think how much more difficult they would have been, had you known ahead of time all that you were going to have to go through. I often think what a blessing it is that the Lord doesn't allow us to see into the future. But Jesus *could* see the future. He could see every step that lay before him. He knew exactly what was coming, and despite all that, our text says, *he set his face to go to Jerusalem*. The word there in the Greek is revealing: it means to make something steadfast and immovable, like setting a post into concrete. Jesus had something wonderful to look forward to. He was ascending again to His heavenly Father, but He knew that between now and that glorious reunion lay a

horrible ordeal. Christ's going to the Father meant a pilgrimage through Gethsemane, Calvary, and Joseph's garden. And Jesus' rock-solid determination was evidence of His great love for you and great patience toward you. For He would allow nothing to sway Him from His mission. As He said, *The Son of man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.*

So many people have the wrong idea about God, as if He were nothing but a cruel judge, waiting for the first opportunity to pounce upon the hapless sinner and condemn him. Nothing could be further from the truth! Peter says, *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* KJV 2 Peter 3:9. God wants all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. That is why he is patient with us, just as Jesus was patient with the Samaritans, and with his disciples. He did not destroy the unbelieving Samaritans, and He did not cast out the vengeful disciples. Nor will he cast us aside, *For the Son of man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.*

How patient our Savior has been toward us! Throughout lives marked by sin and disobedience and rebellion, our lord Jesus has been with us. Every day, from the rising of the sun to its setting, and through the long watches of the night, He is there. Each day, when we cry to him in repentance that we have failed again, we have fallen again, we have sinned again, he hears us. And he responds each time, *fear not, be of good cheer, you shall not die but live.* There's a Lenten hymn that always gives me a lump in my throat, a hymn in which we sing,

*"O wondrous love, whose depth no heart hath sounded,
that brought Thee here, by foes and thieves surrounded!
All worldly pleasures heedless I was trying
While thou wert dying." TLH 143*

Truly Jesus is a patient Savior for an impatient world! He patiently bore the suffering of the cross for our sake. He patiently forgives us day by day when we turn to him in repentance. The grace just keeps on coming! C.H. Spurgeon tells the story of how a wealthy patron once wanted to bestow a large sum of money on a country pastor who was quite poor. Thinking that the amount was too much to send all at once, the benefactor mailed a portion of it with a note that said simply, "More to follow." In a few days the man received another envelope containing the same amount and bearing the same

message, "More to follow." At regular intervals there came a third envelope, and a fourth, and so on for many weeks until the entire amount had been disbursed. And each one was accompanied by the cheering message, "more to follow!" Spurgeon noted that the grace we receive from God always comes with a similar message, "more to follow!" When God forgives our sins, there's more forgiveness to follow. When God bestows upon us the righteousness of Christ, there's more to follow. He adopts us into his very family, but there's more to follow. He prepares us for heaven, but there's more to follow. He helps us even to old age, but still the very best is yet to follow. In fact, it struck me that that would be a pretty good theme for a funeral sermon: *"There's more to follow!"*

So maybe it's time for us believers to take a step back from the fast-paced rush of our hurry-up world. Perhaps we should take a bit more time to savor the grace, and the love, and the *divine, long-suffering patience* that our Lord Jesus has shown to us. Maybe then we'll be better able to reflect that patience ourselves, in our attitude toward God and our fellow man. The time is growing short. Renowned 19th-century preacher A. B. Simpson once said, "Beloved, have you never considered that one Day you will not have anything more to try you, nor anyone more to vex you ever again? There will be no opportunity or need in heaven to learn or to show the spirit of patience, forbearance, and longsuffering. If you are to practice these things, it must be *now*." Each new day will continue to bring us opportunities to learn patience from our Master. Let's not waste them. He has been patient and merciful with us. Let us endeavor, with patience, to bring the Good News of His mercy to as many people as we can before we join Him forever in heaven! **In Jesus' saving name, AMEN.**

ESV(**Exodus 34:1-8**) The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." ⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

ESV(**2 Peter 3:1-9**) This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

NKJ(**Luke 9:51-56**) Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, ⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" ⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶ "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village.



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – July 6, 2025

The Opening Prayer by the Pastor

The Opening Hymn – 140 (*Blue Hymnal*)
"To Your Temple I Draw Near"

The Order of Service – Hymnal page 31ff. (*Blue Hymnal*)

The Scripture Lessons: (*Printed on the back page of this bulletin*)

The First Lesson: (Exodus 34:1-8) Though we tend to give it little thought, one of God's greatest attributes is his patience. Our Old Testament reading tells of God's patience in connection with the giving of the Ten Commandments. By their construction and worship of the Golden Calf, Moses deemed the Children of Israel unworthy of God's holy laws. Still God proclaimed Himself a gracious and forgiving God, yet not one who would simply overlook rebellion and unbelief forever.

The Psalm of the Day – Psalm 73 (Hymnal Page 82) (Read responsively)

The Second Lesson: (2 Peter 3:1-9) Our second lesson reminds us of how foolish it is for man to attempt to judge God by human standards. The eternal God is infinitely greater than man. Yet though infinitely greater, God still patiently desires that all would turn to him in faith and live. As in our first reading, we are also here reminded that God's patience will come to an end, as when God destroyed the earth by a flood in the days of Noah. The godless mistake God's patience as evidence that he does not even exist, or that if he does exist, he is not displeased with sin and unbelief. Neither is true. God patiently grants man a time of grace to repent and live.

The Confession of Faith -

The Apostolic Creed (*Blue Hymnal page 34*)

The Pre-Sermon Hymn – 26 (*Stanzas 1-5*) (*Red Hymnal*)
"Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him"

The Sermon – Text: Luke 9:51-56 (*Printed on the back page of this bulletin*)

"A Patient Savior for an Impatient World"

- I. The Samaritans were impatient to be rid of Jesus.
- II. The disciples were impatient to be rid of the Samaritans.
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The Offertory – (Projected on Screens)

The Post-Sermon Hymn – 375 (*Blue Hymnal*)
"Father Most Holy, Merciful and Tender"

The Prayers of the Day, Followed by the Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Closing Hymn – 26 (*Stanza 6*) (*Red Hymnal*)
"Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him"

Silent Prayer

Welcome! - We warmly welcome any visitors who might be with us this morning and invite you to join us every Sunday at this time. St. Paul is a congregation in fellowship with the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) – a conservative Lutheran synod with churches and missions throughout the United States and around the world. We are glad you are here. Thank you for letting us share the Word of God with you. Please record your visit in our Guest Book, and come again.

Attendance – Sunday (30) Average (38)

This Week at St. Paul:

Today	-10:00 a.m.	– Worship Service
	-11:00 a.m.	– Fellowship Hour
Next Sunday	-10:00 a.m.	– Worship Service
	-11:00 a.m.	– Fellowship Hour
	-10:30 a.m.	– Installation in Valentine

CLC News – Pastor Mark Tiefel has returned the call to Messiah of Eau Claire, WI, has resigned his current call, and is stepping down from the pastoral ministry. Pastor Aaron Ude has returned the call to St. Stephen of Mountain View, CA. Pastor Thomas Naumann is considering the call to Messiah of Eau Claire.

Lutheran Spokesman and Daily Rest Subscriptions – A reminder that payment for subscriptions to the Lutheran Spokesman and Daily Rest can be included in the offering box. If possible, please label your payment for either or both of these publications.

Recorded Music – Since our organist is out of town this weekend, we are using pre-recorded music in this morning's service. Please note that the pre-sermon and closing hymn (26) will be sung from the red hymnal.

Church Council Meeting – The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for July 15th, at 6pm.

Valentine Installation – Pastor Roehl is scheduled to install Pastor Caleb Schaller in Valentine next Sunday, July 13th at their 10:30am service. As a result, a lay service is planned for next Sunday here at St Paul. The next communion service here at St Paul is scheduled for July 27.