

TEXT: Psalm 46:1

THEME: GOD IS OUR STRENGTH

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.”

Dear Faculty, Parents, Families, Friends, and Students,

The theme for this school year is GOD IS OUR STRENGTH from the great Reformation Psalm, Psalm 46. What do we need strength for during the school year?

Teachers need strength to do lesson plans, to teach in an interesting way, to correct papers and tests, to have proper discipline in the classroom, and to keep their patience. That all takes strength that comes from God.

Parents need strength to get their children up for school in time to have a good breakfast, to help with homework and memory work, to get to all the extra-curricular activities, and to get the family to weekly worship. That all takes strength that comes from God.

Students need strength to learn their lessons well, to be attentive and respectful to teachers, to be good and helpful friends to classmates, and to practice hard and perform well in extra-curricular activities. That all takes strength that comes from God.

Trinity, of course, is a special school that not only provides a high quality education in secular subjects and as well as instruction in art, music, and sports, but is founded on God’s Word. From our infant care ministry to our eighth grade, all of our personnel believe in and are eager to share our Savior Jesus Christ. We want our young people to know Jesus as their Savior and to have a part of their everyday lives.

Of course, the devil knows this too, and tries his hardest to snatch us away from God. As Jesus said, **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand” John 10:27-29).** But the devil still tempts us. We still sin, as teachers, parents, and students. When someone sins against us, we all need God’s strength to forgive.

Why is it so hard to forgive other people? There are many explanations, and here’s one. As any accountant could tell you, a debt owed to you is a type of asset. If you are holding a debt that someone still owes you, you have moral leverage over that person. You can feel superior, nobler, better than that person. If you give it away for nothing, you could feel as though you just squandered an asset.

How pathetic our feelings of piety and superiority and our grudges must seem to the One whose boundless mercy forgave a world of sinners, including you and me. The canyon Jesus bridged to reconnect the holy God with sinful people is far greater than any gap between people. Christian behavior, that we try to model and teach here at Trinity, looks like this: **“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).**

There’s a treat for you here. Forgiving other people not only shows obedience to a direct command of God. It also frees you from the prisons and poisons of your own anger. When you are hurt or wronged this year, and you will be, know that God, who forgave all of your sins, is your strength to forgive others. Amen.