

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 23

October 10, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

One of the best ways to commit passages of Scripture to memory is by learning to sing them. “Seek Ye First” (*LSB* 712) supplies a trio of passages taken from Matthew. The first of the three is a section of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus counsels His hearers, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of God truly is found by those whom the Lord has sought and claimed as His own. By God’s grace in Jesus, those “found people” include us. With hymnwriter Henry Baker, who beautifully paraphrased Psalm 23, we can sing, “Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me” (*LSB* 709:3). Happiness is being found!

PRELUDE “Come Worship the Lord” -Talbot

HYMN “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” *LSB* 707

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace

To know and do His will!

2. Order my footsteps by Thy Word

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray,

A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e’er forget Thy way,

Restore Thy wand’ring sheep.

4. Make me to walk in Thy commands—

’Tis a delightful road—

Nor let my head or heart or hands

Offend against my God. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 123:1, 3a; 124:8; 126:3*

Pastor: To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!

People: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

People: The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

People: We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not

always honored those in authority over us. We have hurt others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and actions pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” *LSB* 814

1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.

2 O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!

3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

4 He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son. Text: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:6–7, 10–15* (Seek the Lord and live.) Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! . . . They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 90:12–17*

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

EPISTLE *Hebrews 3:12–19* (A warning against the danger of evils in life) Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 10:17–22* (Jesus has a conversation with a rich young man.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” *LSB* 848

1 Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose
Ev’ry gift that You impart.

2 Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License

SERMON “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” Mark 10:21

- I. “Jesus loves me, this I know.”
 - What is the origin of this famous hymn?
 - Who is the one person that Jesus loves in Mark?
- II. The “Good” Question and Answer (10:17-20)
 - What is odd about his question?
 - What does Jesus try to do with His question?
 - How does the man see himself and his “keeping” of the Law?
- III. “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” (10:21-22)
 - Why does Jesus shatter the man’s world?
 - Jesus shows us a love that...
 - Does what is for my _____
 - Is u _____
 - Lives and _____ for _____

Anna and Susan Warner were a pair of sisters that were writers in the 19th century. Between the two of them, they published 106 novels and children's books, and created one of Christianity's most famous, and beloved hymns, "Jesus Loves Me." The hymn was originally a poem written by Anna to be put in her sister Susan's book, *Say and Seal*. Susan needed a poem to console a dying child in her novel, and that is what Anna came up with in 1860. Just two years later, the famous composer William Batchelder Bradbury encountered the poem in Susan's book. He composed such famous hymns, like "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us," "He Leadth Me," "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less," and "Just As I Am." He loved the poem and decided to put it to a tune that children could sing, and then added the famous refrain: "Yes, Jesus loves me...." It's a song that we know well, and by memory. Perhaps you have taught that to a special little one, or you learned it in Sunday School some years ago. "Jesus loves me, this I know." Today, I want to flesh out this famous line with our Gospel text this morning, and the rich young man will be our guide. In Mark, Jesus is only explicitly said to have loved one person, and it isn't Peter, John, the thief on the cross, a lowly leper, a weak old widow, a sick child, or blind Bartimaeus. It is the mislead young man in our text. Mark says, **"And Jesus, looking at him, loved him...."** This little phrase shows us something significant about Jesus' love that is worth exploring and wrestling with. "Jesus loves me, this I know."

As Jesus finishes blessing the children, He gets up to continue His journey to the cross. As he does, a young man *runs* up to Him, *kneels*, and asks Him a question. **"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"** Sadly, the man's question is off-base. "What must *I do to inherit* eternal life?" Can you hear it? What do you for an inheritance? What will you make your children, or grandchildren do? What *did you do* for an inheritance that you received? Nothing, right? It is simply received. It isn't based on merit or works. I don't need to do anything to receive it. It isn't earned, but it is given. It is what the Giver gives to the recipient. An inheritance is a gift; eternal life is, too. Remember the Rosetta Stone of Mark 10 from last week? It comes into play, here. God accepts us by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, status, or obedience. Our place in the Kingdom is by grace. So is eternal life. It is a gift given to us by grace through faith in Jesus (not by works, status, or obedience). The young man doesn't quite get this. Jesus does, though.

He answers the young man with a question. **"Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."** The answer is in Jesus' question. He points to where that life is found, in Him. Jesus tries to change the focus from the man's works to Who God is, and the *man really is*. The man is not good on his own, and cannot inherit eternal life by what *he does*. Jesus quizzes the man to help him see this.

"You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud [i.e. covet], Honor your father and mother.'" I remember when I was in confirmation class, and Pastor Hoffmann introduced the 10 commandments by reading them out loud to us. Perhaps you had a similar experience with what I'm going to say next. As I heard them, I recalled thinking, "Hey, I'm not that bad! I'm a Christian, so I don't have other gods. I don't misuse God's name with sorcery, and I have heard of the Sabbath Day (though I don't know what it exactly is). I'm generally good for my parents, and I haven't murdered anyone. I'm not married, so I cannot do adultery. I don't intentionally steal (and don't take sips of soda until I pay for it). I have never been to court, so haven't done a false witness. I don't defraud anyone. I'm not *that bad*." Then, I learned what they really mean, that murder included hatred and rage, that adultery included lust, and that a god is what you put your trust in and look to for good. I learned what they really entailed, that I am to speak well of my neighbor, and explain their actions in the kindest way, that remembering the Sabbath Day includes attending the Divine Service and using God's Word. I was only fooling myself with my initial self-assessment. "I'm not that bad!" Who was I kidding? Just me. I have never seen myself the same after learning the 10 Commandments. *I am that bad, and so are you.*

The young man, though, would agree with my initial self-assessment. In fact, he goes even farther than I did. He says, **"Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth."** The word for "keep" is the same word used for the careful watching of a shepherd over his sheep. It is the same word used for the guarding of a strong man over his goods, and it is the same word that Jesus uses for the preserving for those who are His own! The young man claims to not have merely observed the commandments, but that he has zealously protected them. What do you think of his claim and assessment? Jesus thinks the same as we are introduced to one of the loveliest, and profound verses in the Gospel. The beauty is in its simplicity. The words come to life in your mind's eye, and you can vividly picture it.

“And Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Amazing, isn’t it? You can feel the silence and weight of the moment. You can see the look, and tender smile. Jesus loves the man despite his error, his vain self-confidence, and the coming rejection that he will give to Jesus. Jesus loves this man, and because He does, He is willing to do what comes next. He shatters his world. **“You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”** Jesus loves the man too much to let him continue like this. He shatters the man’s self-deception and false confidence with the Law. The man’s self-image is dangerous. It will kill and harm him spiritually, and will keep him from Jesus. Jesus wants the man to see his sin, to repent, and to inherit the eternal life He has won for him. Jesus wants the man to give up his idol of riches, and to see that salvation is only in Him. Remember the Rosetta Stone? God accepts us by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, status, or obedience. Our place in the Kingdom is by grace. So is eternal life. Jesus is willing to pop the man’s bubble and to shatter his world. Why? He loves him. Jesus shows him a love that acts for his good, though it might cause them both pain.

The rich young man doesn’t take Jesus’ word, well. **“Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”** The man leaves wrestling with Jesus’ word, a tough word motivated by love. Jesus shows a love that is for the man’s best interests, although it might hurt for a while.

“Jesus loves me, this I know.” He shows us the same love, too, one that is willing to do what is for our good. I remember a few years ago hearing a story I had never heard before about my sister that has haunted me ever since. My Grandma told me how she once took my sister for her chemo treatment and spinal shot. Katie, knowing what will would happen next, pleaded with my grandparents, saying, “No! Please, no! I’ll be good this time. Katie be a good girl.” She didn’t understand, and couldn’t. She didn’t know. They did it to save her life, to help her. They did it for *her good* although it broke their hearts. They brought her because *they loved her*, even though it hurt. That’s the love that God has for us: one that always acts for my good, even when it might hurt. Sometimes, we don’t understand, or won’t understand. Sometimes, I don’t want it, or would prefer something else. Yet, God’s love prompts Him to do what is for my good, for your good. It can be an unanswered prayer, an unexpected move, a trying time, or what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12: **“Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this [thorn], that it should leave me. But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’** Jesus loves us so much that He is willing to do what is for our good, even when it might hurt, or we don’t understand, like He did with the rich young man.

He also shows us a love that is *unconditional*. The word that Mark used to describe the love Jesus had for the man is *agape*, which is unconditional love. Jesus still loves us when we sin and stray. Jesus loves us with our many flaws, and problems. Jesus loves us despite our needs and failings. Jesus loves us not because of what we can bring to the table, or because of what we can be. He loves us not because of status, worth, or obedience. He loves to support, strengthen, and encourage us. He loves to forgive us, and to pour His grace on us. He loves us *unconditionally*, and *always*. There is nothing that will ever change that.

And Jesus shows us a love that lives and dies for us. Immediately following our text, Mark records this unique incident. **“And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid.”** Jesus is walking openly into the stronghold of His enemies *for you*. He goes to Jerusalem to defeat sin, death, and the devil *for you*. Paul puts it all together when he says what this means in Galatians 2. **“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I know live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me [agape!] and gave Himself for me.”** He shows us a love that lives and dies for you, and for me!

“Jesus loves me, this I know.” What a great love it is. A love that *always does what is for my good*, a love that is *unconditional*, and a love that *lived and died for me*. We can see why Bradbury wants that love known. “Jesus loves me, this I know.” Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING "Make Me a Servant"

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

For meditation, from Luther's Small Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar:

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Through faith in Him whose blood sets us free, we have come to share in all the blessings He freely offers to all who are welcomed to His Table. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy holy holy Lord

God of power and might

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes

In the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us children of men and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but share in the eternal life freely given us through faith in Jesus Christ. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us and for the invitation You have given that we receive His full pardon and peace. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He would establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away
All the sin of the world
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us
And grant to us your peace

You are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” *LSB* 700

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n, 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 ev’ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev’ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore 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.

4 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 heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!
Text: Public domain

“Seek Ye First” *LSB* 712

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!

3 Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!
Text: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: CCLI

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, You are the source of everything good. We thank You for the goodness and mercy You have shown to us in the broken body and shed blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who have shared in Christ go forth and extend to others the grace we here have received; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" *LSB 850*

1 God of grace and God of glory,
 On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
 Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the facing of this hour,
 For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
 Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the living of these days,
 For the living of these days.

3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
 Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
 Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
 Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving You whom we adore,
 Serving You whom we adore.
Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE “In the Wilderness” -Michael Card

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Hebrews 3:18-19 – “And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.”*
Unbelief leads to disobedience – that is, every sin expresses the opposite of faith. True and living faith guides us into the Lord’s way and the Lord’s plan. And when we fall into sin it’s because we are not trusting the Lord’s goodness and provision.

SLIGHTLY USED FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS available 10/3/21: Many of the fluorescent light bulbs have been swapped out for LEDs in the social hall. As a result, we have a surplus of fluorescent light bulbs that still work. These will be available to anyone that would like them on 10/3/21 (after the church cleanup). If you have any questions, please contact Chris G. Thank you!

LWML MITES: We will be having our fall Mites collection on October 24th and October 31st. Please bring in your coins! If you need a Mite box, they are available in the narthex.

EMMAUS FELLOWSHIP FOOD TRAIN: Arrival of a new baby, injuries/surgeries, extended illness, death of a loved one, deployment: these are life events when our congregation can provide support to one another. The Fellowship Committee will be organizing formal food trains for our members when they need a little extra help. Please consider volunteering as you’re able, and accepting these gifts as we serve one another in fellowship. If you are interested in participating when a need arises or have any questions, contact Kjersti D. If you could use this kind of support, please reach out to Pastor Kooi.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Dead Man, Walking” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Old Testament books of Samuel tell the story of Israel's King David and share the promise of the greater King to come. (1 Samuel 3:18)

YOU ARE INVITED to the 34th Annual Lutheran Free Conference on October 30 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 3rd St. N, St. Cloud, from 9:30 to 3:30. This year’s theme is “Waking to Woke: Understanding & Responding to Woke Culture.” The speakers will be Rev. Paul Dare, Pastor of Zion in Alexandria, and Rev. Fred Hinz, Emeritus, Gaylord, MN, Public Policy Advocate for the MN North and MN South Districts. Registration is \$25, which includes coffee, rolls, and lunch (\$10 for high school and college students). Though

the fee is not due until you attend the conference, please RSVP to Redeemer on or before Monday, October 25, for meal and refreshment planning. 320-252-8171 or office@redeemerstcloud.org.

Dear Emmaus,

Thank you so much for your financial support, especially in the form of a scholarship for Sarah's deaconess training at Seminary. It is very encouraging for us as well as a huge blessing. Thank you all,
Nathan and Sarah Federwitz

Check out Nathan and Sarah's newsletter on the missions bulletin board.

If anyone would like to receive Nathan and Sarah's newsletter or reach out to them, you can reach them at this email/ mailing address: [see office]