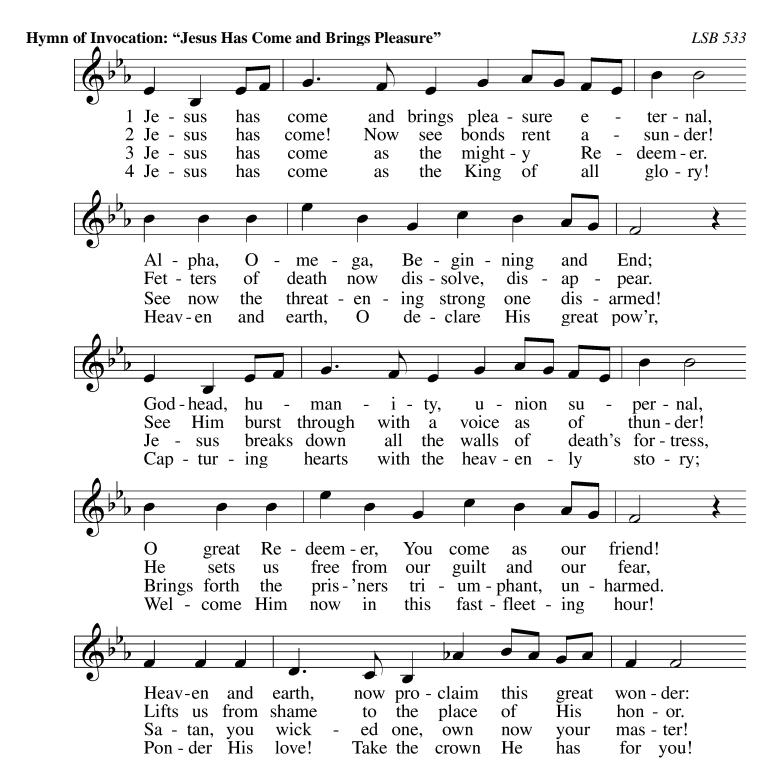
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 17, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word" -Praetorius

Confession and Absolution





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- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

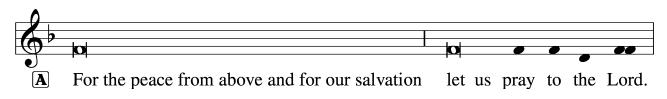
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 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. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

LSB 152





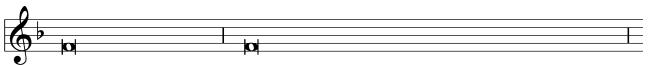




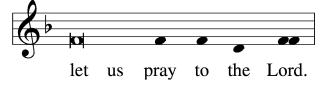
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,







A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise









You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



Salutation and Collect of the Day

Proper 24 (Year B)

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- Let us pray. O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 14

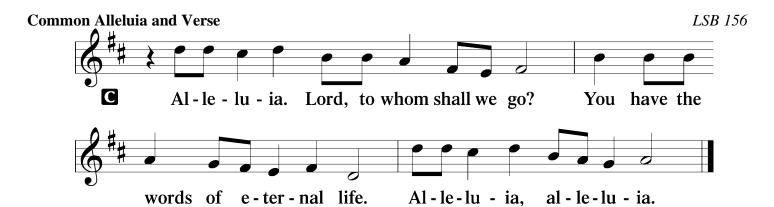
How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessèd are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the just decrees of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Epistle Hebrews 4:1–13

Therefore, 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. 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.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel Mark 10:23–31

- The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



Sermon "Impossible Things Before Breakfast"

- I. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
- II. Draft Busts, and Other Failures (v.17-23)
- -How did the Jews regard wealth? How does the man measure up?
- -What does Jesus expose in him?
- -What does He expose in us?
- III. (Im)Possible? (v.24-31)
- -What is the eye of the needle? What point does that convey?
- -What impossible things has God done?

One of the more unique, or stranger books that I have read lately, would have to be Lewis Carol's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Have you ever read that book before? It has the food and drinks that change your size; it has the talking animals, like the white rabbit; it has the comical logic, like four times five is twelve, and four times six is thirteen; and of course, Alice's iconic blue and white dress and blond hair. If not, perhaps you have seen a scene or two of the movies, perhaps the Disney one. It really is a strange story, but it is

charming, nonetheless. As I read it, I couldn't help but see how one part pairs well with our Gospel text and theme for today. At one point, Alice laughs and tells the White Queen, "One *can't* believe impossible things." The Queen disagreed. She observed that Alice simply lacked discipline and practice. The Queen boasted that *she* sometimes believed "as many as six impossible things before breakfast." Possible. Impossible. What is? What isn't? Jesus and the disciples have a conversation about believing the possible, and impossible, about entering God's kingdom.

One of the articles that I always enjoy reading are about the biggest draft busts. It doesn't even matter what the sport is. It could be baseball, football, soccer, or hockey. I enjoy reading about players who were supposed to be the next big thing, but tragically, fell spectacularly short. I find it fascinating to see how these players excelled at lower levels, how they were champions in other leagues, and rewrote the record books, only to never make a mark at the highest level. I enjoy the trip down memory lane, and I can't help but chuckle at the ill-fated, and glowing predictions of the "experts." The man from last week, the rich young man, would be on one of these lists. The disciples point and say, "This man is a prime recruit for your kingdom, Jesus. He is the next big thing. He has limitless potential. He will be a model disciple, and is a generational recruit. He is a cannot miss prospect. If it is possible for anyone to make it, it would be him!" Jesus says, though, "This guy is a bust. He cannot make it. Impossible." Who is right? Let's take a look.

Just a few verses earlier, we see the man's pedigree and past performances. The man claims to have kept the Law *flawlessly*. He hasn't murdered, committed adultery, stolen, borne false witness, defrauded anyone, or dishonored his parents. He even claims to have guarded God's Law zealously. In other words, he hasn't engaged in activities that would have even lead him to breaking it. On top of it, he was wealthy.

To the Jews in Jesus' day, wealth was seen as a blessing. They believed that prosperity was the sign of a good man and the blessing of God. They thought that wealth was "proof" of one's excellent character and standing with God. Wealth allowed one to do all the sacrifices, feasts, and taxes. So far, the man seems to be checking out, and to be checking off all the boxes of a prime recruit. Perhaps it would be possible for him, after all. The disciples must be thinking: "This man is it! He has got the goods, the talents, the tools." Jesus says, "Not so fast. He is a bust."

Jesus exposes the idolatry and sin in his heart. He told the man, "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." However, the guy can't do that. He cannot make that throw, that shot, or save. He leaves Jesus sorrowful. Even though the man has a lot, he has nothing. Even though he is rich, he is bankrupt. Even though he is satisfied, something is missing, Jesus, and the life that He gives and brings. Jesus exposes his inner sin, and challenged their conception of wealth.

If we stood there, what would happen? If we stood there like the man, how would they evaluate us? How have we refrained from anger and hatred, and the steps that lead up to it? How have we kept ourselves pure, both in thought, and in deed? How have we treated the property of others? The reputation of others? And what about idols? What idols would Jesus uncover? An idol/god is anything that we look to for good, and put our trust in more than God. It is anything we *love more than Him*. It's not just riches that can get in the way of heaven. James 1:17 says, "Every good and every perfect gift is from above." Sadly, any of God's greatest gifts can, and are often used by Satan as his greatest temptations, and most powerful idols. They can be riches, technology, science, or hobbies. They can even be people. Jesus says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." We are no different than that young man. We cannot and do not make the cut!

The man (and us), make the dreaded the bust list! Jesus tells His disciples: "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The guy for whom it seemed possible for struck out! He's not getting in. It's *impossible* for him. His works, his performance, his past, his pedigree, his potential-it all means nothing. They won't do. The same goes for us. The disciples are shocked at Jesus' assessment. But, still in the shock of it all, Jesus says again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!" And then He says something that would belong in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

What is the eye of the needle? Perhaps you have heard the age old debate. Is it a smaller door in the midst of a larger one that a camel could crawl through, or is it a literal, eye of a needle, that small opening at the top? One of these would be possible for a camel to get through. The other is impossible. It seems that Jesus is

talking about the literal eye of a needle, here. He says that is easier for the biggest animal in the land, a camel, to go through the smallest opening, the eye of a needle, than for a person to enter the Kingdom of God on their own. Jesus says that it is more possible for *the impossible* thing. Talk about believing an impossible thing before breakfast!

This time, the disciples are more than amazed. They were **exceedingly astonished**. They are dumbfounded, shocked, and speechless. Their jaws remain opened, and a puzzled look is plastered on their faces. If the possible was impossible for the rich young man, how will it be for them? All they can mutter is, "**Then who can be saved**?" They are right. Who can be saved?

We are called into His kingdom by grace. Just a verse prior, Jesus calls the disciples "children." That is what they are! Despites their fears, failures, and inadequacies in understanding what Jesus is saying, that is what they are! That is what they are to God. His. His children. That is what we are, too, through baptism, where we were welcomed into His kingdom, and claimed as His own. There we where given all of heaven's gifts, the Holy Spirit, faith, forgiveness, salvation, and daily, a new slate. This is all God's doing, and is a sheer gift. We do nothing to earn or deserve this. It isn't a payment for services rendered. It is His work and doing in us, for He did the impossible.

Jesus made the impossible payment for us with His death and resurrection. By His Spirit, He does the impossible work of moving and molding selfish, stubborn, and sinful hearts to be more like Him. He does the hopeless task of bringing people to life through His Word, and daily restoring them, and refashioning them in His image through baptism. And one day, He will do the impossible as He will raise all the dead in the life of the world to come. In Jesus, we can believe the impossible: in Christ, we are saved, and His work continues in us! We have a spot in His kingdom. May God grant us the patience and discipline to believe "as many as six impossible things before breakfast." Amen.

New Member Installation

Pastor: Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we have the joyful privilege of welcoming into our fellowship at Emmaus Lutheran Church this fellow saint in the body of Christ now present here before you. To you who are renewing your relationship through Affirmation of Faith, I would now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Do you acknowledge and confess the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be the true and unaltered teachings of the Word of God? If so, answer, "I Do."

Do you desire in the sincere obedience of God, to be received into the communicant fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Emmaus congregation? If so, answer, "I Do."

Do you intend to continue in the confession of this Church, to make diligent and faithful use of His Word and Sacrament, and to lead a sober, righteous and God-pleasing life, even unto the end? If so, answer, "I do so intend, with the help of God."

Do you desire to become a member of the family of Christ's people at Emmaus, do you intend to join us in faithfully using His precious means of grace: His Word and Sacraments, and do you commit yourself to mission and ministry which He has given us to do in this place? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Please join with the people of Emmaus in confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: In the Name of our Gracious God and on behalf of the people of Emmaus, I bid you welcome as a member of Emmaus Lutheran Church and encourage you to faithfully continue with us in worshiping God, in hearing His Word and sharing His Supper, in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, and in striving for justice and peace in all the earth. May the blessings of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you. Depart in peace, serving the Lord!

Prayer of the Church

Offering "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" -Porter

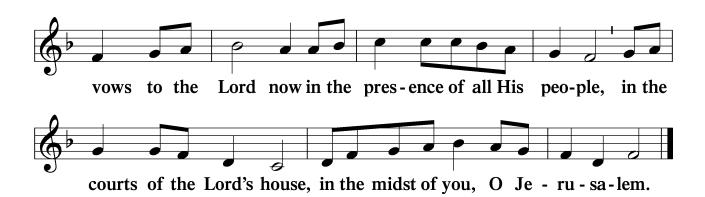
We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

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

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.





Service of the Sacrament



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. 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 LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord LSB 162

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."

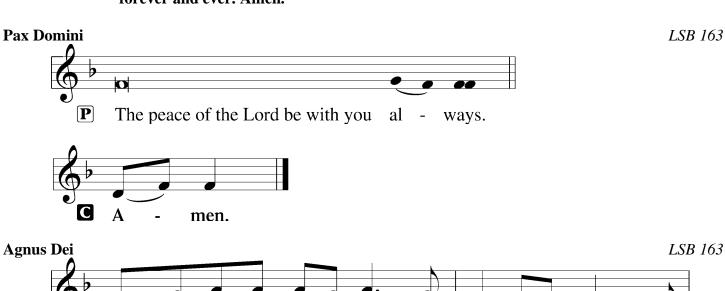
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- **P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

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.



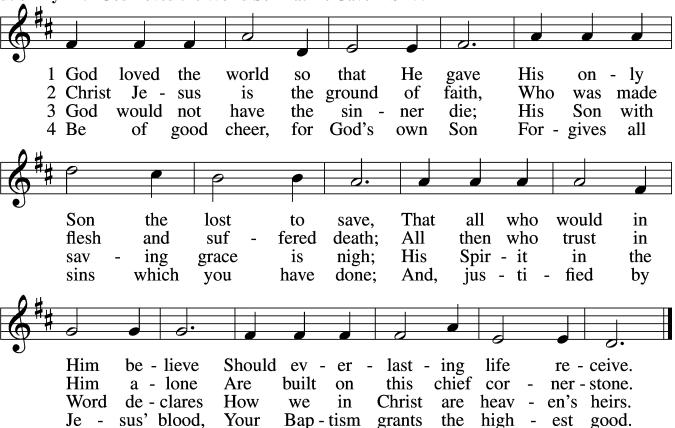




Distribution

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. You may kneel, but it is not required.

Distribution Hymn: "God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571



- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text and tune: Public domain

[&]quot;Break Bread Together" -Busarow





C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



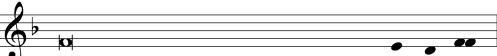
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction LSB 166



P 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.





Postlude "Psalm 19" - Marcello

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: Mark 10:29-30 – "Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.' "This is Jesus' encouragement for every faithful disciple. Let it encourage you today.

PLEASE JOIN US for Emmaus Generations on Tuesday, October 26 at 11:30. We will have a devotion followed by a German meal. If you know you can join us, please RSVP by phone or email to Emmaus.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please join us Sunday, October 31st after our service for our next congregational meeting. There will be a couple of items that we will be voting on and we will also be recognizing our new members. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary. Hope to see you there.

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.

ALMS: Our alms fund is currently out, and we are looking for gift cards in denominations of \$20-25 to Cub Foods, Target, or Aldi, to give out to those in need, or to members who are struggling. Please talk to Pastor Kooi for more information, or if you would like to contribute.

POLKA SERVICE & BAVARIAN DINNER: The community is cordially invited to attend the 18th annual polka service and Bavarian dinner at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4101 Washington Street NE, Columbia Heights, on Saturday, Oct. 30. The service begins at 5:30 p.m., with the to-go dinner distribution following immediately afterwards. Chuck Thiel and the Jolly Ramblers from Lester Prairie, MN are featured musicians for the event. Proceeds from the dinner will help support St. Matthew's spring musical, "Bright Star." Tickets for the dinner are \$10 and are available through Oct. 24th by calling the church office at 763-788-9427. St. Matthew is handicap accessible.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "He will Take It" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler helps us to see God's wrath within the bigger story of God's love. (1 Samuel 15)

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 .	