

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 25

October 24, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

### AS WE GATHER

In the first stanza of the hymn “Amazing Grace” we confess, “I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!” (*LSB* 744). When we say we were lost, we may think of the parable of the prodigal son. We mean that apart from God, like the rest of the world, we do not truly know our real spiritual need. Likewise, the blindness we confess is our condition apart from the enlightenment of God’s word and deliverance. Blind Bartimaeus in today’s Gospel, by the enlightenment of God’s Word, believed that Jesus as the “son of David” is the divine agent, the Son of God come to save. He had heard through Isaiah the prophet that one of the first things the Messiah will do would be to open blind eyes (Isaiah 35:5). With this blind man, we come today with the heartfelt prayer “have mercy on me” and discover more. Our eyes are enlightened to see God’s mercy as we join this man and Jesus’ disciples following Him in the way, on the road to Jerusalem. There we discover the mercy and gracious reign and rule of God in the mighty suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord of life.

### HYMN “Today Your Mercy Calls Us” *LSB* 915

1       Today Your mercy calls us  
      To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
      Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
      Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
      And make us clean today.

2       Today Your gate is open,  
      And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father’s welcome  
      And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
      A present joy be giv’n,  
A future grace be promised,  
      A glorious crown in heav’n.

3       Today our Father calls us;  
      His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
      Around the heav’nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
      How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
      It is our Father’s home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

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## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Mark 10:48, 52*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

**People: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**

Pastor: Let us confess our greatest need to God, our merciful Father.

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we are in the darkness of the fallen world by our own sin, our failure to keep Your holy Commandments in our thoughts, words, and deeds, as well as the good we have failed to do. Deliver us from the darkness of death by the light of Your Son's saving death on the cross and the power of His resurrection. Speak now Your divine Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Amen.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## INTROIT *Psalm 131; antiphon: Psalm 130:1–2*

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. **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.** Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

## KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** “Majesty” -Jack Hayford

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Majesty, worship His majesty.  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne unto His own; His anthem raise.  
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty –  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, the helper of all who call on You, have mercy on us and give us eyes of faith to see Your Son that we may follow Him on the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** 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.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM** *Psalms 126*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb! Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 7:23–28* (Jesus, our perfect High Priest forever) The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no

need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 10:46–52* (Jesus heals Bartimaeus.)

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

They came to Jericho. And as [Jesus] was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Speak O Lord” -Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

2. Teach us Lord full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow’r that can never fail;  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

## SERMON

There once was a man who became king of a small country. He had a deep love for God, and offered him sacrifices continually. One night, when this young man was asleep, God appeared to him in a dream, and said, “Ask what I shall give you.” God is going to give the young man anything that he asks for. He essentially gives the man a blank check, and says, “what should I put here?”

How would you answer that question? Would you ask for health, money, happiness, or possessions?

What might a young king ask for? Perhaps wealth, since money can solve some things. Maybe honor since respect can go a long way. He might want to ask for the death of an enemy who seems undefeatable, or perhaps long life on this earth. Who could forget about the classic request of stuff.

But the young man says you were good to my father, you have made me king, help me to lead and serve your people. Give me a heart of wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead and do a good job. God’s response? Consider it done. God gave the young king wisdom and understanding, and even that which he didn’t ask for. The man received riches, possessions, and honor like no king before or after him. At this the young man wakes up. Who is the guy?

It is none other than Solomon, the son of King David, who wrote our Ecclesiastes text this morning. Solomon was the richest and wisest man of his age, and we would do well to listen to him. If you haven’t noticed already this morning, our texts have to do with riches.

This morning, Solomon teaches us that everything is a gift of God. As believers, this gives us great joy because it means that the meaning of life is not defined by stuff, but by the Savior. In our text, Solomon gives us a lens through how to see riches, possessions, and the meaning of life in light of the cross.

Solomon starts by saying that riches do not satisfy. “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this is also vanity” or meaningless!

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon says that he experimented with everything that this life has to offer, and he found himself to then be the richest empty-hearted man in the world. When money, or material goods are one’s goal, one’s meaning in life, they will never, ever, satisfy.

Why? John Rockefeller tells it best with this story. The old billionaire was once asked, “How much money does it take to satisfy a person?” And he responded, “Always a little bit more!” Wealth and goods are never enough. There is no ultimate sense of fulfillment, and this sense of unfulfillment trickles down and affects how we see and live our lives.

When money and goods become the pursuit of our lives, it changes how we see work and ourselves. When money is the object, work becomes only a means to an end rather than a way to serve God in the place that He has put us in this life. It can suck out and take all of the joy!

Money can be a measure of self-worth and how we might define ourselves, or others. It can be a source of security, and become our idol and god! It can create a situation where enough is never enough. We can always have a little bit more.

But when the work of serving God in light of what He has done for us in Jesus is itself one’s joy, things change. When the work of serving God in and through the places He has put as father, grandmother, daughter, employee, or friend is our joy, any incidentals that come our way are really bonuses and seen as gifts. These things we seek and chase cease to be the meaning of life, which ultimately never satisfies. Solomon says that riches do not do the trick!

Now Solomon says that riches not only don’t satisfy, but they don’t bring peace or security either. They certainly don’t bring peace with others. “When goods increase, they increase those who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?” There is a story about an old woman who won the lottery and went from being poor and impoverished to a multi-millionaire. When interviewed about her newfound wealth, she commented on how many long-lost relatives she had rediscovered or never knew she had since winning the money. There were so many people contacting her, she actually moved out of her house and got rid of her phone service just to have some peace from others! While we might never win the lotto, perhaps you have seen something similar in your life.

It is like when you were a kid and you find out that the person was only interested in you for your toy. Or in High School, that friend hung out with you only because you had a car. Or as adult, a person is interested in you because of your stuff, whether it is a huge TV, beautiful swimming pool, or relaxing lake cabin.

When this happens, we aren't valued for who we are, but rather by what we have. "When goods increase, they increase those who eat them..." Our real value and worth comes from our identity in Jesus, the One by whom we are loved, forgiven, and chosen. But as Solomon continues, he says money doesn't give internal peace either.

He pens, "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." You would think all that wealth would bring security, and rest. But Solomon says that is not the case. Riches requires constant maintenance. When earthly goods are the most vital part of our lives, they can quickly take over our minds, and bring worrisome, restlessness, and sleepless nights. Earthly goods don't bring internal peace or security, but rather stress and uncertainty.

Our true peace, our true security, is only found in the God that loves, cares, and watches over us. True peace and security cannot be found in riches, or things, but only in God, the One Who is over those things.

As Solomon ramps up his point, he tells us that what we toil over, worry about, and fret over. He says what cause us stress and frustration, guess what, Solomon reminds us that you can't take it with you! "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." Point being: it all stays here!

There is a story about Alexander the Great on his deathbed. He was the great king and conqueror of the Ancient World. On his deathbed, he asked that his hands would not be wrapped, which was against the normal custom, but rather be left open. He wanted everyone to see his empty hands as they took him to his grave. In death, he was on equal terms with the poorest beggar. Solomon would agree with this!

In the end, the car you drove, the place you lived in, the stuff you owned, or the money you earned, it won't matter. Financially speaking, at death, everyone breaks even Solomon says. The rich, the poor, those in the middle, there is no difference. You can't take it with you! Wealth and possessions don't deliver, satisfy, or bring peace.

The only place where true lasting hope is found, where true and lasting satisfaction, where true and lasting meaning and peace is found is with God Himself, the very One who justifies sinners and saves all who trust in His Son.

For this is His work and gift, we have no part in it! This is shown perfectly in our Gospel reading. As the rich young man walks away sad, Jesus talks about the difficulty of entering God's Kingdom. He says, "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." To that, the disciples say, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus says, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

It is impossible to enter in on our own, our works and lives won't do it! But through Christ's death and resurrection, we enter in. Salvation is a gift, won and bought by Jesus' blood and perfect life lived for you and me. But salvation isn't the only gift God gives. Our entire life and all it has is a gift! We simply receive!

Solomon explains and applies what that means for our lives. 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. God has given us all that we have. Luther explains well what it is that God has given us with the word "daily bread" when we he explains the Lord's Prayer.

"Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the life."

God has given us all these things as a gift, and our lot is...to enjoy them as the gifts they are. Even enjoying them is a gift! We give thanks and enjoy all that God has given, from the great gift of salvation to the little gifts of daily bread, for this is our lot. We enjoy the work and tasks He has given us to do, for this is our lot. As God's children, we rejoice in our relationship with God and in His good and gracious gifts because the cross of Jesus has made it so. 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

#### 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.**

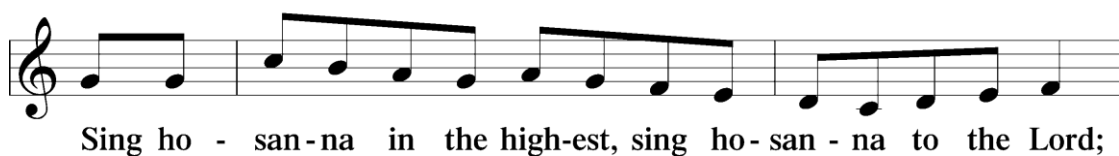
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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 opens both blind eyes and hearts to see and believe in the wondrous salvation He came to bring by means of His cross and resurrection. 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



## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **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.”

## **PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**



## AGNUS DEI



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Divine Service, Setting Four from *Lutheran Service Book* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission.

*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 HYMN** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" –John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio ©2006 worshiptogether.com songs. Used by permission. CCLI #589180

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.

*Chorus:* My chains are gone. I've been set free,  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
Unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures. *Chorus (twice)*

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine,  
Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

### **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 COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; 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** "Let It Be Said of Us" -Steve Fry

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1. Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,  
That with gladness we bore ev'ry cross we were given;  
That we fought the good fight, that we finished the course  
Knowing within us the pow'r of the risen Lord.

*Chorus:* Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song,  
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.  
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song  
Till the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.  
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

2. Let it be said of us: We were marked by forgiveness,  
We were known by our love, and delighted in meekness.  
We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity's call;  
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all. *Chorus*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *Hebrews 7:27 – “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.”* The great sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross covers the sins of all mankind. When that sacrifice was made, Jesus proclaimed: “It is finished.” No sacrifice of ours is needed to cover our sins. And yet St. Paul tells us to be “living sacrifices,” and Jesus tells us to “lay your offering at the altar.” So sacrificial giving goes on, but now its purpose is transformed by the one sin-atoning sacrifice of Christ. Now our giving and serving are sacrifices of thanksgiving, gifts of self in serving others for Christ’s sake.

**EMMAUS GENERATIONS** will be held 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: 651-489-9426, emmaus@q.com

**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 24<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**CLAY POTS:** Free clay pots in the entry way! Please take them if you could use them.

**POLKA SERVICE & BAVARIAN DINNER:** The community is cordially invited to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. 24<sup>th</sup> by calling the church office at 763-788-9427. St. Matthew is handicap accessible.

**TEENS, SCREENS, AND MENTAL HEALTH:** King of Kings Church and School is excited to announce an upcoming Parent Education Seminar on November 3, 6:00 - 8:00pm. “It’s Complicated: Teens, Screens, and Mental Health.” Are screens helping our teens cope during a difficult time? Or accelerating mental health concerns? The reality is that it is complicated. Join Erin Walsh from Spark & Stitch Institute for an evening of evidence, insight, and warm advice on parenting for digital wellbeing. Erin is a parent, speaker, educator, and

writer. She has worked with communities across the country who want to better understand child and adolescent development and cut through conflicting information about kids and technology. She is fiercely committed to bringing an equity lens and asset-based approach to our understanding of, and response to, youth and media. Her signature down-to-earth approach and sense of humor helps families and educators engage in complicated topics and leave feeling capable and motivated. Come join this in-person seminar to learn about this important topic as we all help our children grow and develop in this digital world.

**HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Not How, but Who” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The story of David and Goliath is often treated as a how-to guide to overcoming obstacles, but Dr. Michael Zeigler says that misses the point. (1 Samuel 17:37)