

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10th, 2021

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season, and hast crowned the year with the goodness, give us grateful hearts, that we may unfeignedly thank Thee for all Thy loving-kindness, and worthily magnify Thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz

Readers: 9 a.m. — Lorraine Kaija 11 a.m. – Howard Bogusat

Children’s Message: “Thanksgiving” <https://youtu.be/BBUDm9Sjj94>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Mark 8: 22-26 Wed.: Col. 3: 12-17 Friday: 1 John 1: 5-10
Tuesday: Col. 3: 5-11 Thurs: Luke 19: 1-10 Saturday: Jude 20-25

WORSHIP NOTE:

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 3, we can now offer in-person worship with allowances for social distancing.

- **Sunday Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM on Facebook:** (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com) or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

EDUCATION HOUR FALL starting **October 3rd through Advent 2021: 10:10 AM — 10:45 AM**

- **Adult Bible Study** will be held weekly in the basement [SOUL area]
- **Sunday School** – Will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month in basement classrooms
- **Youth Catechism** – Will be held on the 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month in the sanctuary pews

On the Sundays Pastor Todd teaches youth catechism, Louise will lead the adult classes (3rd & 4th Sunday). All other adult classes Pastor Todd will teach. 1st Adult study will be the book of JAMES.

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to Gloria and Peter Ott, and family and friends, on the passing of their son Mark McLaughlin on October 2nd. Mark received a Christian funeral this past week. We pray that The Lord will shower them with His love and comfort and carry them through this terribly sad and difficult time. May they feel God's presence with them and come to know His peace.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Please join us this **Friday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.** as we continue our Study of Psalm 23. We will meet at the church, however if you would like to join us through Zoom, please let Louise know (905-329-8579) so you can receive the link.

LWML-C/Mary Martha: It's that time of year again! We are so excited to invite you to join us at our LWML-C/Mary Martha meetings which will be held **in person!** *We will be still wearing masks and social distancing at our meetings. (You are welcome to bring your own beverage.)*

- Oct. 19: 7 p.m. LWML National Convention Highlights
- Nov. 16: 7 p.m. Pack socks for Warm Feet for the Street.
- Dec. 14: 5:30 p.m. Advent Tea

REQUEST REGARDING 2021 FALL BAZAAR: Our Bazaar this year will still be held similar to last year, with individual orders being filled, packaged and picked up at the door at a pre-arranged time. It seemed to work well that way last year and we were grateful for all the support. Prior to placing order forms in the bulletin this year, we would like to know if any of you have done or will be doing any specific things that you would be willing to contribute, that we can offer - for eg. canning and preserving (jams, jellies, pickles, fruit, sauces etc.) or specific crafts (sewing, knitting etc.) Baking can and will be done according to whatever people place orders for, as it was last year, but these other kinds of items are usually done ahead of time and we will need to know details for them – kinds you have and amounts that you are willing to donate, so that they will be offered on a “first come, first serve” basis as would happen at a regular Bazaar. We will list those items and take orders for them only as long as they are available. Please let Carole know by email: carolepink121@gmail.com or by leaving a phone message: 905-682-9176 (or on my cell) Thank you.



CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021

At “The Watering Can” in Vineland

Doors Open AT 6 p.m.

Workshop Starts Promptly at 6:30 p.m.

TRADITIONAL URN = \$75

proceeds to our Syrian Refugee family

Deadline for sign up and payment is Sunday, November 7th

If interested please notify Wendy Shook —905-380-6544

++MASKS MUST BE WORN DURING THE WORKSHOP++

Participants can bring in their own drinks but no drinks or food is to be shared

Last Sunday Attendance: Oct. 3rd, 2021 **Attn: 9 a.m. – ; 11 a.m.— ; Total:**

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Weekly Need</u> | <u>Last Sunday</u> | <u>Year To Date</u> | <u>+ or – (-)</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Current: | 271,175.00 | 5,214.90 | 1,993.50 | 149,386.06 | 59,210.09 |
| LCC Missions | 20,000.00 | 384.62 | 237.00 | 13,000.00 | (2,384.62) |
| Property Improvement: | | | 56.00 | 4,462.00 | |

A MEMORIAL DONATION has been given to Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Mixte Nazareth Feeding Program in memory of Erna McBride by Lorraine Talbot.

SEMINARY GUILD MEMBERSHIPS are now available. Still only \$5.00. Please see Naomi Hohnberg!!

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at:
WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pagelId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

Silver Spire United Church – Communal Shower Replacement Project:

<https://www.silverspire.ca/shower-project>

We have been contacted, as one of the downtown congregations, to support Silver Spire in this major undertaking to assist the homeless community in the downtown core. Estimated cost is \$200,000.

Council discussed the request and have decided to encourage our members that wish to support this project to do so by sending your donations directly to Silver Spire. All donations will be tax deductible.

If you prefer you can make a donation to Christ Lutheran Church and mark it "Silver Spire – Showers" the amount will be receipted by Christ Lutheran and forwarded to Silver Spire on your behalf.

Below you will find a link to the article that appeared in the Standard recently and the website for Silver Spire.

The request letter is posted at the back of the church on the bulletin board for you to review.

<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2021/07/08/st-catharines-church-fundraising-for-showers-for-the-homeless.html>

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH COVID PROTOCOL UPDATE

As we continue to gather for services we want to ensure that we are keeping up-to-date with the Provincial and Regional Orders related to Covid 19 and its variants. We would ask that you review the attached Screening Form carefully so that each time you enter for worship services and various other church activities you are able to answer “**NO**” to each and every one of the Covid Screening questions. This Screening Form is posted in the narthex and copies are available at the door.

Please familiarize yourself with the protocol to be followed,

- Ensure your attendance is noted at the entrance
- Ensure that you can answer “NO” to all of the screening question
- Ensure you have a temperature check before entering
- Wear a mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times
- Sanitize your hands on entry and exit
- Practice social distancing, 2 metres or 6 feet apart
- Holy Communion will be distributed “Pilgrim” style
- When entering the sanctuary fill pews from front to back
- When leaving the sanctuary exit back to front
- Narthex and sanctuary will be sanitized between services
- Visitors will be asked to complete the CLC Screening Form
- Sign in at the southeast entrance when entering the church during the week

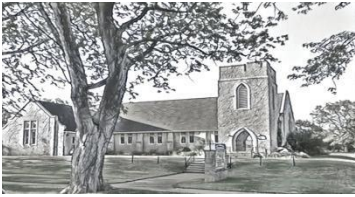
If you, your children or anyone attending with you are experiencing any of the symptoms, have had contact or have been out of the country as outlined in the Screening Form, please remain at home.

Recent changes to the government regulations require Proof of Vaccination for various locations. Christ Lutheran Church *is exempt* from such requirement and will not be requesting Proof of Vaccination or a Vaccination Passport for attendance at Worship Services, Sunday School, Choir, Youth Catechism, Bible Study and Mary Martha/LWML. **However, it is the expectation of Christ Lutheran Church that all members of the congregation will be fully vaccinated, not only for your own protection but for family and fellow parishioners as well.**

In order to ensure the health and safety of everyone, we will be requesting that anyone involved in assisting with Sunday School, Youth Catechism and Holy Communion provide proof of vaccination or a Vaccination Passport on a voluntary basis. Should anyone have any concerns with respect to providing disclosure, please speak directly with Pastor.

“Meetings” of no more than 25 people under the local government order are *not* exempt from providing Proof of Vaccination or a Vaccination Passport. Confirmation and verification of vaccination will be required for all members of the Executive Committee, Worship Committee, Parish Education Committee, Elders Committee and Fellowship Committee as these constitute “meetings”. Should anyone have any concerns with respect to providing disclosure, please speak directly with Pastor.

God has richly blessed Christ Lutheran Church and we pray that everyone will remain healthy and safe as we gather and worship our Lord.



Christ Lutheran Church Screening Form

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3. Individuals entering facilities are required to answer the following questions prior to being admitted. The people with you should also take this screening. You can take it on their behalf if they cannot do it themselves.

Name(s) (first and last): _____

Contact phone number: _____ Date: _____

First and last name of any children (<18 years) entering with you: _____

1. Are you, or the individuals entering with you, currently experiencing one or more of the symptoms below that are new or worsening? Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever and/or chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease or loss of smell or taste | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough or barking cough (croup) | <input type="checkbox"/> Headache (unusual or long-lasting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pink eye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Falling down often |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme tiredness | () Yes to any |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty swallowing | | () No to all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Runny or stuffy/congested nose | | |

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 2. Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? | () Yes () No |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 3. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)? | () Yes () No |
|---|----------------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 4. In the last 14 days, have you been identified as a "close contact" of someone who currently has COVID-19? | () Yes () No |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 5. In the last 14 days have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone? If you already went for a test and got a negative test select "No". | () Yes () No |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 6. In the last 14 days, have you or anyone you live with travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements? | () Yes () No |
|--|----------------|

If you answered NO to all questions, you may enter the church. This result is no longer valid if your situation changes during the day (for example, you start experiencing symptoms).

If you answered YES to any question, you are NOT permitted to enter.

The personal information collected on this form is being collected under the authority of O.Reg.364/20 – rules for Areas in Stage 3, pursuant to the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. The personal information will be retained for a minimum period of 30 days. For further information regarding this collection of personal information you may contact Judy Slingerland, Social and Health Ministry Chairman, 905-6883867 or jslingerland@cogeco.ca

THANKSGIVING DAY

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Worship & Creative Lutheran Worship Resources

October 10, 2021+ 9 AM Contemporary Service

GATHERING HYMN: *“Praise & Thanksgiving, Father We Offer”*

1. Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer for all things living, created good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children, by your wise guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care. 4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where all believe you, no one should hunger; in Your love sway You, nourish the land.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, **for the Lord has done great things!**

Do not fear, you animals of the field, **for the pastures of the wilderness are green;**

O children of Zion, be glad, **rejoice in the Lord your God;**

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, **and praise the name of the Lord your God!**

[Joel 2]

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

[Brief silence for self-examination]

O Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, forgive us. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us keep sacred Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Receive the forgiveness Christ Himself has won for you by His Passion, death and resurrection. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE:

O, Lord -- **have mercy on us;**

O, Christ -- **have mercy on us;**

O, Lord have mercy on us and give Your peace. A-men.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

“Praise To The Lamb” Revelations 5 & 19

[tune: Love Lifted Me]

**Heav’nly hosts in wor-ship sing, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, cry;
He the First and He the Last, God the Lord Most High.
Glo-ry, hon-our, pow’r and praise be to Him
alone! We, with all cre-ation fall, be-fore His
throne. Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb;
By His great offering, we are set free!
Praise to the Lamb, praise to the Lamb;
Now and for-ev - er - more! --- Praise to the Lamb!**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Almighty Father, Whose mercies are new every morning and even though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You willingly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Amos 5: 6, 7, 10-15*

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live 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 push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the 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, just 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Hebrews 2:12-16*

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPOKEN GOSPEL VERSE:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the word of Christ richly inhabit your lives. With all wisdom teach and instruct one another. Sing psalms, hymns and Spiritual songs, and keep on singing—sing to God from hearts full and spilling over with thankfulness. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 10:17-25

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG:

"Give Thanks..."

**Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the Holy One Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the Holy One Give
thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son And now let the weak say, "I am strong" Let
the poor say, "I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us" And now let the weak say,
"I am strong" Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

Give thanks --Give thanks!

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Merciful Father, you have protected the fruits of the earth and crowned the year with your blessing. We give you thanks for physical health, for the use of our senses, and for our intellect and thought. Make us good stewards of our abilities that we may bring glory to your name every day. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks gracious Father for all the good things the earth produces. By your provision we are clothed and fed and lack no good thing. Care for those who live in want and teach us to be generous with the gifts you have first given us. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks Lord God for the opportunity to work, learn and rest. Help us to serve you and others faithfully in our vocation; and provide work for the unemployed. Bless all places of learning and students, especially during our days of pandemic. Help them to learn what is true, to distinguish between right and wrong, and to contribute to the needs of our society. Give them strength and growth for the challenges ahead. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Almighty God, we thank you for the financial gifts you have blessed us with. Teach us to use these gifts in ways that are pleasing to you. Warn and correct us when we falsely put our hope in worldly wealth. Grant our church the necessary funds to carry out its work of ministry and mission. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of parents and children, family and friends. Let the light of your love shine in our homes. Help us to overcome strife and conflict with your patience and forgiveness. Comfort the lonely, the sick, especially we bring before you....[names added here...] and bring them into health according to Your own will. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We thank you Lord God for the blessings of a free and peaceful society. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Encourage all our citizens to lead good lives and strive for the common good. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Into Your hands, O Father, we commend all for Whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, which we have come to know in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Sung responsively to the tune of "Come, You Thankful People, Come"

May the Lord now be with you.

May the Lord remain with you.

Lift your hearts to God in praise!

To the Lord we lift our praise!

Let us thank the Lord our God.

It is good and right to do.

With the Church and Heav'nly Host, let us join the ageless-song:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, Mighty God of Sab-ba-oth;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim, shout the glories of Your
name! Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, unto Heav'n Hosanna sing!
Blest is He Who comes to save; loud Hosannas now we bring!**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven...."

LAMB OF GOD: "O, Jesus Christ" (Tune: Just As I Am)

**O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God, the sins of the world, You take away.
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray; And bless us with Your peace; A-men.**

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: "Let Us Break Bread" www.hymnary.orgLBW

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;

Let us break bread to- geth - er on our knees.
 Let us drink wine to- geth - er on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing
 sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;
 Let us praise God to- geth - er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing
 sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

*Text: Negro spiritual
Tune: Negro spiritual*

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
10 10 with refrain

“You Satisfy The Hungry Heart”

[tune: “Let Altogether Praise Our God”]

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of
life to eat; the bread of life to eat.**

**With joyful lips we sing to You, our praise and gratitude,
That You should count us worthy Lord,
To share this heav’nly food. To share this Heav’nly Food**

**You give yourself to us, O Lord, then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name, in
truth and charity; in truth and charity.**

SONG OF SIMEON

[tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,
Your salvation my eyes now have seen, Long-
prepared as it always has been.**

**In Your light, you reveal, the world’s promise and Israel’s great joy!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

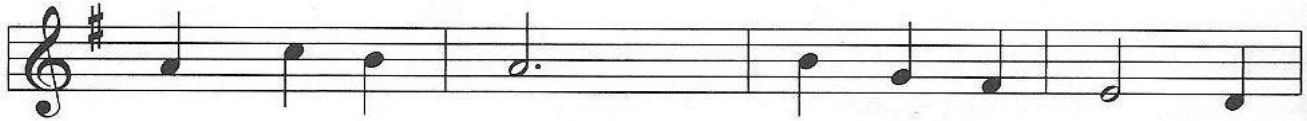
"Earth & All Stars"



1 Earth and all stars, loud rushing plan-ets



Sing, to the Lord ----- a new song!



O vic-tor-y! Loud shou-ting ar-my,



Sing, to the Lord ----- a new song! *Refrain*



He has done mar - vel - ous things!



I, too, will praise Him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*
 He has done mar---velous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord-- a new song!
 Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord-- a new song! *Refrain*
 He has done mar---velous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

CREATIVE COMMUNION

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Worship & Creative Lutheran Worship Resources

THANKSGIVING DAY

October 10, 2021 + 11 AM Traditional Service

GATHERING HYMN: "Praise & Thanksgiving, Father We Offer"

1. **Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer for all things living, created good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**
2. **Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**
3. **Father, providing food for your children, by your wise guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care. 4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where all believe you, no one should hunger; in Your love sway You, nourish the land.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to His greatness!

O Lord, You open wide Your hand

And satisfy the needs of every living creature.

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Let us make good vows to the Most High God!

Let us go before the altar of God.

To Him, Who is our joy and delight.

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us. *[Brief silence for self-examination]*

O Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, forgive us. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us keep sacred Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Receive the forgiveness Christ Himself has won for you by His Passion, death and resurrection. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE:

O, Lord -- **have mercy on us;**

O, Christ -- **have mercy on us;**

O, Lord have mercy on us and give Your peace. A-men.

“The Lord My God”

(Tune: “Now Thank We”)

The Lord my God be praised! My Light, my Life from Heaven.

My Maker, Who to me, has soul and body given.

Glory to God on High, and peace with us to-day,

We praise and thank you Lord, for blessings on our way.

The Lord my God be praised! My trust, my Life from Heaven.

The Father’s own dear Son, Whose life for me was given.

Who for my sin atoned with His most precious Blood,

And gives to me by faith, the highest Heavn’ly Good!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Almighty Father, Whose mercies are new every morning and even though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You willingly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Amos 5: 6, 7, 10-15*

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live 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 push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the 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, just 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Hebrews 2:12-16*

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPOKEN GOSPEL VERSE:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the word of Christ richly inhabit your lives. With all wisdom teach and instruct one another. Sing psalms, hymns and Spiritual songs, and keep on singing—sing to God from hearts full and spilling over with thankfulness. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 10:17-25*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Give Thanks..."

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"
Give thanks -- Give thanks !**

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Merciful Father, you have protected the fruits of the earth and crowned the year with your blessing. We give you thanks for physical health, for the use of our senses, and for our intellect and thought. Make us good stewards of our abilities that we may bring glory to your name every day. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks gracious Father for all the good things the earth produces. By your provision we are clothed and fed and lack no good thing. Care for those who live in want and teach us to be generous with the gifts you have first given us. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We give you thanks Lord God for the opportunity to work, learn and rest. Help us to serve you and others faithfully in our vocation; and provide work for the unemployed. Bless all places of learning and students, especially during our days of pandemic. Help them to learn what is true, to distinguish between right and wrong, and to contribute to the needs of our society. Give them strength and growth for the challenges ahead. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Almighty God, we thank you for the financial gifts you have blessed us with. Teach us to use these gifts in ways that are pleasing to you. Warn and correct us when we falsely put our hope in worldly wealth. Grant our church the necessary funds to carry out its work of ministry and mission. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of parents and children, family and friends. Let the light of your love shine in our homes. Help us to overcome strife and conflict with your patience and forgiveness. Comfort the lonely, the sick, especially we bring before you.....[names added here...] and bring them into health according to Your own will. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

We thank you Lord God for the blessings of a free and peaceful society. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Encourage all our citizens to lead good lives and strive for the common good. Hear our grateful prayer, O God:

for Your mercy never ends;

Into Your hands, O Father, we commend all for Whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, which we have come to know in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Sung responsively to the tune of "Come, You Thankful People, Come"

May the Lord now be with you.

May the Lord remain with you.

Lift your hearts to God in praise!

To the Lord we lift our praise!

Let us thank the Lord our God.

It is good and right to do.

With the Church and Heav'nly Host, let us join the ageless-song:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, Mighty God of Sab-ba-oth;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim, shout the glories of Your name! Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, unto Heav'n Hosanna sing!

Blest is He Who comes to save; loud Hosannas now we bring!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven...."

LAMB OF GOD: "O, Jesus Christ" (Tune: Just As I Am)
O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God, the sins of the world, You take away.
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray; And bless us with Your peace; A-men.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: "Let Us Break Bread" www.hymnary.orgLBW

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: Negro spiritual
Tune: Negro spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
10 10 with refrain

"You Satisfy The Hungry Heart"

[tune: "Let Altogether Praise Our God"]

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,
Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of
life to eat; the bread of life to eat.**

**With joyful lips we sing to You, our praise and gratitude,
That You should count us worthy Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. To share this Heav'nly Food**

**You give yourself to us, O Lord, then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name, in
truth and charity; in truth and charity.**

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: **"Lord, Dismiss"** (Tune: "Come, You Thankful")

**Lord, dismiss in Heav'nly peace! All Your servants from this feast!
Glories now our eyes have seen, for Your grace has set us free!
All the nations see this Light, drawn into Your glory bright!
Father, Son and Spirit praise, worship God through all our days.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

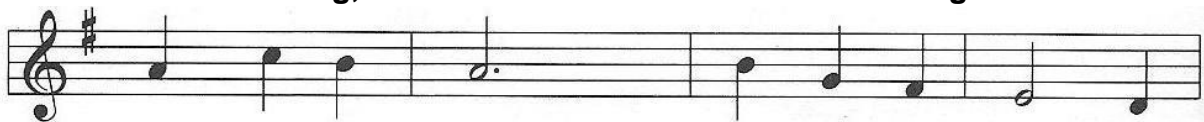
SENDING HYMN: **"Earth & All Stars"**



1 Earth and all stars, loud rushing plan-ets



Sing, to the Lord ----- a new song!



O vic-tor-y! Loud shou-ting ar-my,



Sing, to the Lord ----- a new song!

Refrain:



He has done mar - vel - ous things! -->



I, too, will praise Him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves!

Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

He has done mar---velous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!

Sing to the Lord-- a new song!

Daughter and son! Loud praying members!

Sing to the Lord-- a new song! *Refrain*

He has done mar---velous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

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REV. TODD HOEFFS
THANKSGIVING [Pentecost 20]
Scripture: St. Mark 10
October 14, 2018
The Cost of Living Thankfully

Everyone has a price. The trick is in finding it. Look for someone's most treasured ideal or inner value. What exactly they protect, hold dear and trust. The young guy in Mark's Gospel has his own treasured ideal. He loves his money and possessions and what these mean to him as his standing in his culture. He's young and rich. That's what's most desired in our culture.

Wealth, health, and power is supposed to make us happy. I once heard someone comment on that old saying "money can't buy ya happiness" by saying, "maybe you're not buying the right stuff to make you happy." Maybe? What makes us happy now as we culturally move out of COVID pandemic life? Thanksgiving is a family holiday prized and treasured by so many. But now peoples' priorities have all shifted. People are more apt to think twice before leaving their home for any reason; With over a year passing by, with many holidays like Thanksgiving celebrated in much smaller ways, feelings of not having large scale dinners may seem like a relief. In this time, we've been told to take care of ourselves. To concern ourselves with our own health and safety. To be pleased to have a solitary life inside 4 walls. To be thankful for health To be thankful for vaccinations To be thankful that lockdowns are over. And yet thankfulness is best lived NOT to ourselves, but for others. Saying thank you tells a person you appreciate them and what they've done or given. Thankfulness leads to gratitude, which is a way of viewing all of life as a gift. And expressing gratitude is all about enjoying the giver's presence. Thanksgiving is truly less about the words "thank you" And more about LIVING thankfully. Living for others, which makes them a priority. We are more than just our own selves. The young man Jesus encounters is only concerned with himself. Ordinarily you didn't acquire wealth and power at a young age unless your family passed it on. So he's in a good place. His question to Jesus makes sense:

"Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He must've known something's missing. He knows living on beyond this world is an inheritance and not a earned right.

Maybe it's a legacy he's concerned with? He's sincere. Not like Pharisees who constantly test Jesus with their endless "what if" questions. Not like the synagogue lawyers and Torah experts, looking for ways to trap Jesus in His words. This guy wants to know, he needs to know, how he can access this inheritance of eternal life. Power and riches he's quite sure of. But how about God's Kingdom treasure? Do good and you'll have eternal life is his own idea. Don't need faith in God or this man Jesus for that. Lots of people "do good" without believing in Him.

In fact, unbelievers are often better at this than we are. Yet Jesus throws that idea back in his face. "No one is good except God." There's no person in the world who can do anything purely & perfectly good. No one. All of us are sinful, born corrupted with rebellion and selfishness as our way, a condition we can't shake off. It fights against repentance, It pushes away gratitude, It makes it all about you and what you want With a privileged pride. Very unhealthy living.

The opposite of thankful living. Only God is good in Himself. Any good we do is God at work in us. Any good we are is by virtue of the shed Blood of Christ covering over our sin.

This young guy wants to do good, But he's only concerned with attaining a way of BEING good. Being good comes from the Lord's righteousness. Not his. He wants certainty that he's in God's Kingdom, which he knows is inherited. We all know how you inherit things—Somehow, you get into your rich relative's good graces and named in the will. You only need to be connected by family or friendship to them somehow to it. It takes a relationship or a birthright. You may not deserve it. Just as we don't deserve faith or new life when we're born. It's all a gift from God.

Jesus comes to die a death He doesn't deserve Like our baptism into Him---This gives us a way into His Father's Kingdom we don't deserve. Wanting to do something, Jesus gives this rich young man a to-do list. A quick listing of the commandments: Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness, don't defraud, honor father and mother.

There's plenty of work to do managing those. To which he proudly says he has kept since his childhood days. Maybe we sit here today thinking the same. I never killed anyone... but God says even a harsh word or thought against another person IS killing them... or maybe we've killed their good name... murder, adultery, theft, false witness, fraud are in every sinner's heart. And we're guilty of all these things, even if we don't act them out. Neglect of the poor and the neighbour in need is murder, as is prejudice, hatred, and simply wishing revenge. Adultery is simply the fleeting lustful look at another person who is not your wife or husband. Maybe just on the computer screen or the TV. Maybe it becomes more. False witness need be nothing more than a juicy bit of gossip. Fraud can be a shady tax return or selling something for more than it's really worth. Honoring father and mother, well, that includes respecting all who are in authority over us, whether we agree with them or not. Notice Jesus doesn't argue the point. In fact, He looks on him and "loves him." That's important to note – because what Jesus says to him, He says in love. "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 goes straight to the heart of this rich, young man whom he loves. He sees His heart the way only the Lord can see the heart, and He sees a heart consumed with love of his possessions, held captive by the idolatry of greed.

He may have kept all the commandments outwardly, and may have been what society calls a very good man, but his heart betrayed him. He wants God just to accept him for what he does, and so is really saying he doesn't need God. He's also falsely believing Jesus is asking him to become destitute. His face is cast down. Jesus is just asking him to align his actions with his words, to be willing to exchange his material security for a more enduring source of purpose and contentment. Spiritual growth is as much about throwing out what's harmful as it is about getting something wonderful. We lose our sinful self and receive a renewed, clean self. We are faced with the truth that in fact we DO need God for every step we take. Peter and Andrew, standing there as witnesses, have already demonstrated, by leaving their nets behind, that it can be done, that a life of learning to pray "give us THIS day our daily bread" is not just one viable option among many, but the only way to follow Jesus. Here we see a call to discipleship which is sadly declined. Greed and envy are opposite faces of the same ugly coin. Love is the currency of eternal life. And we can spend this coin all day long... in constant, prayerful rejection of what harms us and longing for more & more Spirit-driven renewal and renovation....showing up in our own acts of kindness... in a life deliberately dedicated to giving and forgiving, a life of humble, thankful living. A life where thanks is very visible. It's not the riches or youth or power that's bad.

They're all wonderful gifts of God for our use. It's what exactly we trust and love. Trusting only material things will breed a false sense of security. Money is great, but our faith in Christ is long lasting, guarded by our Lord and us in God's Kingdom forever. By faith we're called to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. All commandments begin in the heart. A heart opened up by the Spirit's wind And renovated by the cross of our Lord. Jesus loved this young man, as HE so loves you, me and this world. He wants to give the ONE thing most lacking. And that is faith & trust in Him. True treasure of an eternal kingdom is in heaven. Give the earthly treasure to the poor who need it - And come, follow Me. Follow. The Greek word Mark chooses for this following is a common construction word. Literally it means "road union". When 2 different roads merge together to make one road. Following Jesus means joining His road, His journey, so there's no longer 2 roads but 1. Just like the Footprints in the sand poem, when you see one set of tracks behind you, you know Jesus is the one carrying you. So following Jesus isn't even something you "do". He's

doing it for you, with you, in you. HE gives you the faith, the Spirit, He even goes to the cross before you are expected to carry it. Follow Jesus through death and resurrection, trust in Him and what HE's doing, and you'll get eternal life. We can't trust in God and trust in earthly stuff.

Tending to our faith-life is priority number one. Living lives which show thanks is an important witness. Earthly things we have to enjoy and use Because God deserves all trust, honour, glory and praise, for He is the source of all good things! With God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

All can be saved and enjoy life with God in Heaven.

God is good. Jesus is good, He is rich but for our sakes became poor. He emptied Himself of His honour, His glory, His power and He became a servant who suffered and in humility became obedient to His own commandments and died in poverty on a cross so that by His poverty and death we all might become rich, heirs of eternal life. Heaven is our inheritance.

Issued in Baptism.

With an inherited currency enjoyed now – in this life -- as gifts that come from God through faith. Such as total and complete forgiveness, Which we need every moment of every day—

Renewed living, as we have less feelings of hurt or anger or fear-- An undergirding of peace, trusting Jesus will always keep us safe. This creates a thankful life, where mercy and generosity and humility dwell.

From God's family Table here, Jesus is served to you in Bread and Wine Which makes the family tables in your home that much more joy-filled – As you never go without His Daily Bread for your body and soul.

This creates thankful living.

Thankful living costs nothing – But it's worth every penny to God.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Amen.