

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 17th, 2021



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

Prayer: Enlighten our minds, we pray, O God, by the Spirit who proceeds from You that, as Your Son has promised, we may be led into all truth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m. — Paul Mason 11 a.m. – Greg Jack

Children’s Message: “Wishes” <https://youtu.be/gLEKHLsixGQ>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: John 6: 24-33 Wed.: John 15: 1-8 Friday: 1 Pet. 2: 5-10
Tuesday: Exod. 16: 2-7a, 13-15 Thurs: 1 Cor. 10: 14-22 Saturday: Heb. 7: 23-28

WORSHIP NOTE:

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

- A recording of Sunday’s service 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 (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

WEDDING BANNES: Katherine Margaret Emily Roepke and Andrew George Emery will be united in Holy Matrimony by Rev. Todd Hoeffs on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 at 3 p.m. on the site of Ball’s Falls Conservatory’s Historic Chapel. We pray the Lord richly bless them as they begin their new life together.

EDUCATION HOUR: Sundays 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.

YOUTH AND CONFIRMANDS AT HOWELLS: We are working to set up a fun trip to Howells and their Corn Maze on Sunday, October 24th in the afternoon. Connect with Pastor or Louise for more details. Admission is \$18.99 + tax.

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

ALSO: Our ladies will be gratefully collecting items for "**Warm Feet for The Streets**" again this year. We will assemble them at our November 16th meeting. (see flyer list in bulletin). It is such a necessary ministry for the homeless who are living on the "streets". More details in the bulletin next week.



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. 10th, 2021 Attn: 9 a.m. – 48; 11 a.m.— 29; Total: 77

	<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	

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOEBOXES are now available in the narthex. Please return the filled shoebox by Sunday, November 14th. More information coming.

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the Glory of God by Fran Porteous in loving memory of her parents.

SEMINARY GUILD MEMBERSHIPS. Still only \$5.00. Please see Naomi Hohnberg.

OCTOBER is Pastor Appreciation Month: Please take a moment to acknowledge the dedicated service provided to us by our caring shepherd Pastor Todd. We are also blessed to have three former pastors in our flock – Pastors John, Frank and Gary. God is good to us. Thanks be to God.

.....Lord Jesus, You are my great High Priest, who intercedes with the Father on my behalf. During Your earthly ministry You called men to be Your apostles, and still today You call men to be pastors in Your Church—to proclaim the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, to baptize, to nourish Your people with Your holy Supper, and to minister in countless ways to Your flock. Grant to my pastor fidelity to Your Word, wisdom by Your Spirit, and strength from above, that he may carry out his calling faithfully. Make him a fearless confessor of Your truth. Keep him from error in his teaching and from scandal in his life. Give him courage to admonish those who stray, compassion to bind up the Broken-hearted, and discernment to apply Law and Gospel to all appropriately. May he protect Your flock from ravaging wolves and shepherd Your lambs into green pastures. Move the members of my congregation to have proper respect for our pastor, to obey him, and to gladly accept the Word preached to us. Keep our pastor and parishioners faithful until death, that together we may receive the crown of life; in Your name, O Jesus, the only Saviour of the world. Amen.

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: Darryl 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/?pageId=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). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

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>

“WARM FEET FOR THE STREET” KITS

for “Out of the Cold”

a LWML-C / MARY MARTHA PROJECT

We would appreciate your help by contributing any of the following:

- LARGE socks
- Warm gloves (adult size)
- Scarves
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Lip Balm
- Hand & Body Lotion
- Deodorant
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Kleenex (little pkgs.)
- Band-aids
- Combs (pocket size)
- Small Soaps
- Portals of Prayer (or similar, from any month or year)
- Underwear (new)

Place in the box in the Narthex from now until November 14th.

We will make up the Kits at our November 16th meeting.

Remember that everything needs to be small enough to fit into the socks!!!

If you would like to help, but prefer for us to do the shopping, a donation of money would be terrific too. Thank you for your participation and donations. Contact: Wendy Hyatt

SCRIPTURE & SONGS

October 17, 2021 + 9 AM Contemporary Worship

GATHERING SONG:

"Let All Things Now Living"

[Ash Grove]

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.

His Word He endorses, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit routinely will shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Amen.

Words: Katherine K. Davis -- Music: Ash Grove

WE BEGIN IN GOD'S NAME

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

Amen.

I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the House of the Lord!

Unless the Lord builds the House,

In vain do the builders labour.

Surely the Lord is in this place.

This is the House of God, this is the Gate of Heaven!

You are gracious and merciful, O God,

Slow to anger, rich in love.

Receive our prayers and worship as You have promised

And uphold us by Your Spirit,

Until all things, mended by Your mercy,

Are made whole and well in You,

Through Jesus Christ

Our healer and our hope. Amen.

KYRIE--PRAYING FOR MERCY

Have mer-cy O Lord, have mer-cy O Christ, have mer-cy Lord—

Give peace, we pray, give peace, to-day, my Lord--; my Lord--.

[tune: Israeli – SHALOM]

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

To You, O Lord God,

All hearts are open, to You all desires are fully known. We come to You, moved by Your Word and Spirit, as sinners, confessing our sins. Forgive us in Your mercy. Remember us in Your love. Show us Your way, teach us Your path, lead us in truth and faithfulness, for the sake of our neighbour and for Your sake, O Lord God, in the hope of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

By water, Word and Spirit, our God gives you new birth and through the death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in His name and in His stead, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When the Son sets you free, you are free indeed!

Praise be to God!

GLORY TO GOD "Shout To The Lord"

**My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You**

Chorus:

**Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing**

**Power and majesty
Praise to the King

Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You**

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GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear my prayer O Lord,

Listen to my call for help.

We pray: O Lord our God, Gracious Father, keep Your family the Church in constant faithfulness, that through Your holy protection she may be free from all evil, and may devoutly serve you with the fruit of good works, to the glory of your name; we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 53: 4-12*

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by, his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous

one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Hebrews 5: 1-10*

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG GOSPEL VERSE:

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

[Caribbean melody]

Halle, halle, halle--lujah.

Halle, halle, halle--lujah.

Halle, halle, halle--lujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 10: 35-45*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their ruler's lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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. On 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.

GOSPEL SONG:

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

[African]

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.*

**Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.**

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.*

**Neighbors are rich folk and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away.**

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.*

**Loving puts us on our knees,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we should live with you.**

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.*

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Dear heavenly Father: thank you for sending Jesus your Son to carry our sins, and to suffer for us and with us. Thank you that because of him nobody prays to you in vain, but that through him you comfort the sorrowful and strengthen sufferers. Turn us to you in faith and prayer when we suffer and when we see others suffer. Help us rest in your divine wisdom rather than demanding rational explanations.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray dear Father for all who suffer because they bear Christ's name. Let no trial shake their faith or embitter their hearts, but keep them faithful and true. Relieve the suffering of people in Haiti, Cuba, the Middle East and bring reconciliation and peace wherever there is conflict. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who are wronged or oppressed in any way - defend them from despair and anger. Give courage to those whose hopes are shattered, those who are left behind and forgotten, and those who are alone and afraid. Befriend and comfort them, and stay with them always.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are homeless, and for all refugees and prisoners. Give them hope and the home they need. Release those trapped by addiction and harmful habits, and give peace to those suffering from depression and mental illness.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who struggle to do your will, dear Father, but who falter continually, and for those who would follow Jesus but are afraid of his cross. Give them strength and grant them victory.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who suffer sickness and disease, those who suffer through disability or advancing age, and those who face the darkness of death. Relieve pain and discomfort, and sustain them by faith in Christ and the hope of the resurrection. Bring healing to all in our congregation who are unwell, sustain those who care for them, and meet the needs of those we now name before You...

(names given)

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

Heavenly Father, make us rejoice in every experience, however difficult, by which you teach us humility and faith, sympathy and prayer for those who suffer. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER ***"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...."***

THE BLESSING:

Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep. May you hear His voice and keep His Word.

Amen, thanks be to God.

Jesus is the Pathway that leads to life. May You follow in His narrow way.

Amen, praise be to God.

Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His Word and love.

Amen. Glory to our God.

May the Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG:

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB # 392 VS 1, 3 & 5

**God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation;
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

Refrain:

***Therefore I'll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.***

Refrain:

**He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free.**

Refrain:

***Therefore I'll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

**Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed.**

Refrain:

***Therefore I'll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

**Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal,
Now I will praise You
All my life long.**

Refrain:

***Therefore I'll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

DIVINE SERVICE

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Hymnal Supplement '98 service

October 17, 2021+ 11 AM Traditional Service

OPENING HYMN:

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

LSB 651

I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

Amen.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness,

therefore, You are feared.

[Brief silence for prayerful reflection]

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities, with which I have ever offended You, and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them and I pray You of Your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death, of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you; and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mer - cy on us; Christ, have mer - cy
on us; Lord, have mer - cy on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Glory To God"

Woodlands tune



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you --

and also with you.

Let us pray: O Lord our God, Gracious Father, keep Your family the Church in constant faithfulness, that through Your holy protection she may be free from all evil, and may devoutly serve you with the fruit of good works, to the glory of your name; we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 53: 4-12*

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by, his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for

sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Hebrews 5: 1-10*

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 10: 35-45

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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. On 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service"

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

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

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

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

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MESSAGE

THE PRAYERS

Dear heavenly Father: thank you for sending Jesus your Son to carry our sins, and to suffer for us and with us. Thank you that because of him nobody prays to you in vain, but that through him you comfort the sorrowful and strengthen sufferers. Turn us to you in faith and prayer when we suffer and when we see others suffer. Help us rest in your divine wisdom rather than demanding rational explanations.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray dear Father for all who suffer because they bear Christ's name. Let no trial shake their faith or embitter their hearts, but keep them faithful and true. Relieve the suffering of people in Haiti, Cuba, the Middle East and bring reconciliation and peace wherever there is conflict. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who are wronged or oppressed in any way - defend them from despair and anger. Give courage to those whose hopes are shattered, those who are left behind and forgotten, and those who are alone and afraid. Befriend and comfort them, and stay with them always.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are homeless, and for all refugees and prisoners. Give them hope and the home they need. Release those trapped by addiction and harmful habits, and give peace to those suffering from depression and mental illness.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who struggle to do your will, dear Father, but who falter continually, and for those who would follow Jesus but are afraid of his cross. Give them strength and grant them victory.

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who suffer sickness and disease, those who suffer through disability or advancing age, and those who face the darkness of death. Relieve pain and discomfort, and sustain them by faith in Christ and the hope of the resurrection. Bring healing to all in our congregation who are unwell, sustain those who care for them, and meet the needs of those we now name before You... (*names given*)

Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

Heavenly Father, make us rejoice in every experience, however difficult, by which you teach us humility and faith, sympathy and prayer for those who suffer. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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. 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

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.



CLOSING HYMM:
LSB # 392 VS 1, 3 & 5

“God Loves Me Dearly”

**God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation;
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

***Refrain:
Therefore I’ll say again,
God loves me dearly,***

***God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.***

**He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free.**

***Refrain:
Therefore I’ll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

**Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed.**

***Refrain:
Therefore I’ll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

**Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal,
Now I will praise You
All my life long.**

***Refrain:
Therefore I’ll say again,
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me***

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REV. TODD HOEFFS

Pentecost 21

Scripture: Mark 10: 35-45

“Jesus does no favours...”

October 17, 2021

The message is from Mark's Gospel, chapter 10 –“whoever wants to be great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

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

God doesn't do favours.

Now: that may seem surprising or take you off guard a bit?!

A favour is a human concept. We're expected to give or do something.

We can't [or would rather not]. So we ask someone else to do it. They're doing **us** a favour.

We'll be expected to return the favour—Do something for them if asked. This is why we're careful when we ask people for favours. We don't like having to offer a favour in return.

Transactions are easier. I want this – I pay this price. Done.

With a favour, we always feel obligated to do whatever is asked. God doesn't do favours.

We don't ask Him to do something for us And then we re-pay Him with some form of favour.

There's really nothing we could ever dream up to do for Him anyway. God only desires faith in His Son. No matter how long you've been a Christian, No matter how many times you've sat in the church pew Or given funds Or lent your time Your relationship with God is coming here as His child, and receiving His generous grace.

He helps.

He supports.

He gives.

He forgives.

He shares Himself totally and unconditionally with all Who believe in His Son.

Consequently, Jesus doesn't do favours either. James and John are asking Him a favour in Mark's Gospel. Will you do for us whatever we ask of you, Teacher? How bold, almost rude.

Jesus isn't a puppet on a string, nor a divine Amazon.ca account.

But He plays into it - revealing the true hearts of His disciples, that they really don't get what He's all about. They're not asking who is the greatest as they did last week.

Now, they want...or maybe expect...to be seated at Jesus' Right and Left IN GLORY.

Wow! What a question. The highest level of power and authority.

The inner holy awe-inspiring glorious presence that even Moses and the prophets never got to see---James & John must think they're very special!? Jesus already said 3 different times, in 3 different ways, That as He gets closer to Jerusalem, He will suffer, die and rise on the 3rd day.

James & John get that part, the rising. Like a phoenix coming up out of the ashes.

When that happens, the whole world will take notice, and they want to be right there in the spotlight. Sure, there'll be some hassle, some suffering, some struggle, but then the glory.

Angels. Lighting flashes. A heavenly voice. Trumpets. Cheers! Sounds like James and John are imagining this like a high school athlete considers the daily training for the team.

They don't see themselves sweat-covered and exhausted; they see themselves holding high the victory trophy. It's the glory. “You don't know what you are asking.”

With this blunt reply Jesus acknowledges

that for all his openness about what lay ahead,
they don't get it.

He speaks of 2 very familiar illustrations for his upcoming suffering – a cup and a baptism.

Cup helps along them with their religious understanding; baptism taps into what they know and have seen since Jesus' own baptism at the start of His ministry. Jesus' cup and baptism are a glory unlike anything anyone could imagine. Asking a favour of this magnitude not only reveals James and John's heart But the heart of so many of us Christians.

How often in our prayers do we want Jesus to give us a big fix?

How many favours do we ask?

We who are church insiders of the faith, who've dedicated plenty of time and energy being followers of Jesus, We expect not only a few favours BUT ANY THING WE ASK.

We don't owe God!

We're forgiven.

We're free.

It's not even a favour we want, we just want. It's the most vivid form of privilege.

We think we deserve it and more. We prize our autonomy and freedom.

We like working hard and doing things our way.

We spend much of our lives overthinking

how we don't have to be in service to anyone,

that we owe no favours,

that we somehow can earn our keep,

when the truth is, it just proves how enslaved we are to our own selves. That's what privilege does. Fools us into believing that Jesus is somehow indebted to us for being a follower that any wish we have at any moment must be granted. Or we're done. That's why Jesus doesn't pick apart the question.

He shows the better answer.

#1 – glory isn't a request Jesus gives.

#2 – glory will be and is already theirs [and yours]

#3 – and that glory comes with suffering and eventually death.

Being in glory with Jesus is not a favour, But is rather a way of living over a life-time of trial as a believer. It's enjoying the feast once the meal is cooked. It's the warm embers when the roaring campfire dies down. It's the calm breeze after the gusting winds.

The peaceful mindset once the argument is over. Glory is a way of living.

Glory which only comes with dying. Glory which comes through Jesus with a CUP and a BAPTISM.

Sounds easy, but it's the worst kind of work Jesus is called to do.

The "cup" points to the "cup" at the Last Supper. The cup of suffering Jesus must drink

The night He gives His Body and Blood in the meal in a new way, Moments before He stands in the place, AS ONE for ALL Drinking to death the cup of sin while He is sinless And in His sinlessness destroys sins power and death's doom. The cup is empty. His nailed and beaten Body is empty.

A baptism in His own shed blood. His total immersion into humanity's pain

Total washing into our mess Starting at the Jordan River washing,

FINISHED at Calvary's cross.

But the "cup" of Jesus is also the cup of joy, The cup of salvation, The blessed cup of our new Meal, The Holy Communion celebration—The blessed cup Jesus drinks new with us in His Heavenly Kingdom Because He has risen on the 3rd day. For this is what we are baptized into And this is the cup from which we drink. Death to the ego and life to the soul. Right side or left side of Jesus' throne isn't anyone's to ask. Why do you think that the two men on Jesus' right and left at the cross

Were both criminals? One ridicules to get a favour; one speaks humility that maybe, by chance, he will come into Jesus' memory when He gets into that glory place—And he gets Paradise. Not by paying for his crimes. But by dying to his sinful self, which gives him life!

And therein lies James and John's life.

And ours. Jesus' life for ours. He is the ransom. He is the Master Who becomes a slave and buys

us all back From slavery to our own sinfulness And makes us right and good before God.

Jesus is literally paying himself out to rescue us from our delusions and take us safely to new life.

This He does FOR MANY.

This is why the cross is greatness and glory. And this greatness, this glory, is only made visible by serving. Jesus' empty tomb validates the sacrifice at the cross.
Our lives are validated by the cross etched onto our lives in baptism.
Our lives are validated by the resurrection spurring us on to live a glory lifestyle.
Where there's no room for privilege. Only protection by God's grace, And no escaping service.
You and I will either willingly, even joyfully, serve others, or remain a slave to our illusions
that any of us can be free and secure through privilege or power. It is in losing ourselves that we find
our true selves, For our faith is nothing without helping and assisting those who cross our paths.
Serving is not the same as busy-ness. Serving is attending to ones' needs.
It is not beneath us, but above us because it is Jesus' invitation. It is looking not for favours but
longing for a fullness. It is looking not for comfortability but contentedness.
It is looking not for a transaction but transformation.
Serving is the mark of a glory way of living --
A Christ-centred, humble outlook that sees serving as the only way.
And we get to enjoy a quality of life which transforms us
Because Jesus remains with us and resides in us.
By living in a culture which continually moves away from community and into camps,
Which means living not for each other but only for self and those in agreement,
Isolation overtakes life which makes serving harder.
Community creates awareness of needs and serving thrives.
We have community here.
For the church is the community of Christ,
His living Body in the day-to-day world.
By serving, our community will be seen.
A community based in faith,
and not in favours.
Amen.