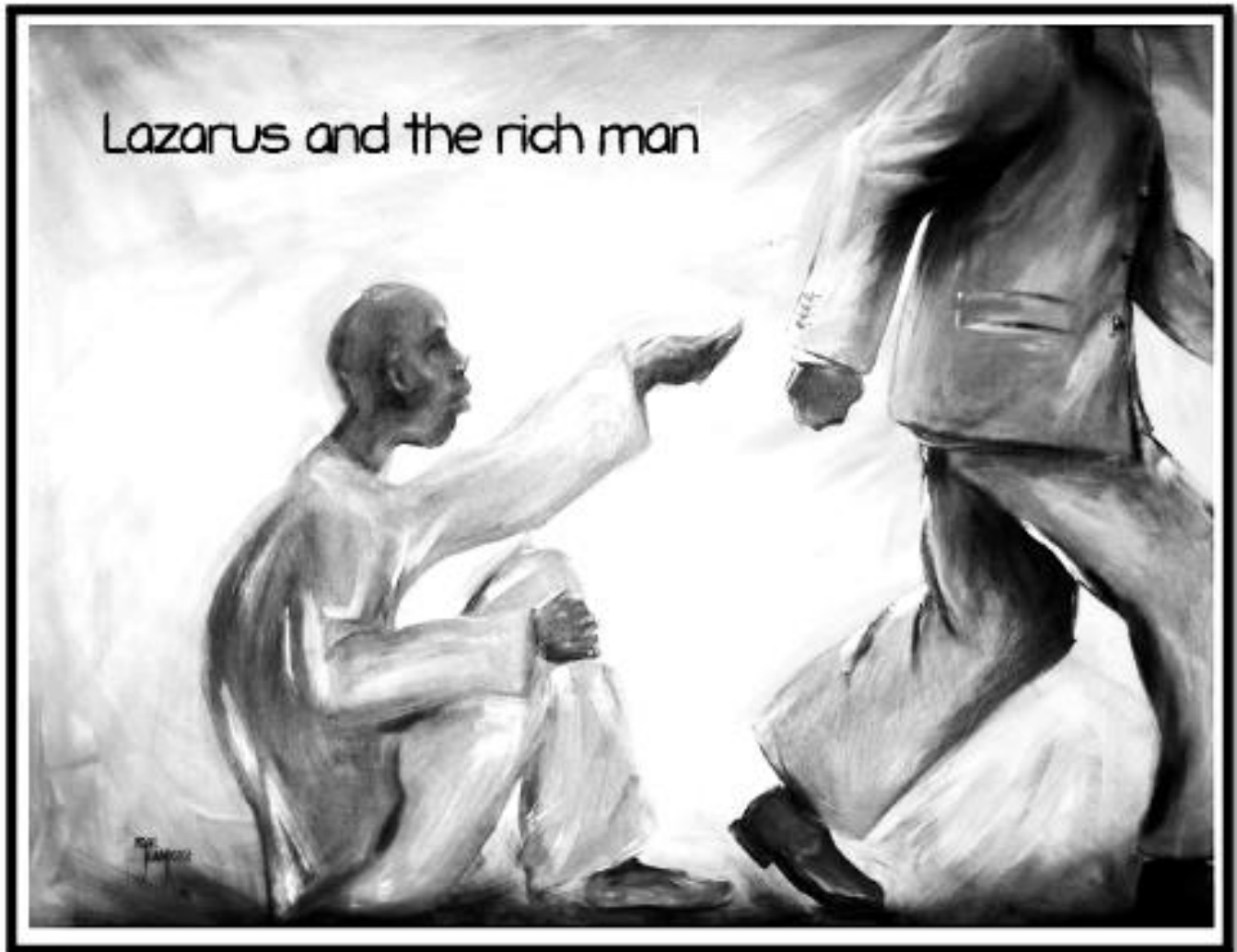


# THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 25th, 2022



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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

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

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKTi9c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Prayer:** Grant, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Prov. 30: 4-9                      Wednesday: 1 Cor. 7: 20-24                      Friday: John 4: 31-38  
Tuesday: 1 Tim. 6: 6-12a                      Thursday: 1 Kings 17: 1-6                      Saturday: Luke 6: 20-26

**Musician:** 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz  
**Reader:** 10 a.m. – Gloria Meyer

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held at 9:00 a.m. before service the first 2 Sundays of each month. Our focus this year is on “*God’s Good Rules, His 10 Commandments*”. Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and time to read their own devotions or join in Christian conversation.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 25, 4:00 PM:** Ordination and Installation of Captain Chad Miller of the Canadian Armed Forces at **Grace Lutheran Church**, 213 Linwell Road, St. Catharines. Guest preacher is Rev. Dr. Thomas Korcok.

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS:** We're back on Tuesday mornings, starting this **Tuesday, September 27th between 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Precious Moments is a group focused on sharing Jesus with preschoolers and their parents or caregivers.. During our time together we play with toys, sing songs, read a Bible Story, enjoy a snack and make a craft. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others from our church and community. Whether you have an infant or a toddler we hope you will join us!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2:** LWMLC Sunday.

**YOUTH NIGHT:** Friday, September 30, 7:00-9:00 pm. All youth (grades 7-12) are invited to join us here at the church for a fun night of following Jesus, through games, a devotion and snacks. Looking forward to seeing you there! Friends are certainly welcome.

**YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS 2022**—Christ Lutheran Church – Rev. Todd Hoeffs  
Youth Catechism Class with Pastor Todd is a time for young people to see their own unique place in God’s Story of love, acceptance, and new life in Jesus Christ. Scripture-rich lessons focus on our identity as Jesus’ brothers and sisters through our Baptismal faith. Preparation for receiving Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine for Holy Communion makes for a meaningful life-long faith journey.  
Part of Catechism class is learnin to participate in Sunday worship and undertake opportunities to serve and “live their faith” in small local outreach projects. Altar candle lighting, ushering and training for assistance in Sunday services will be an integral part of class. Because of this, regular attendance during our Sunday worship is a requirement of all students.  
Young people who are beginning grade 5 through grade 9 are welcome to join the Catechism Class. The start date and time will be set in the near future.  
Please email [PastorToddHoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:PastorToddHoeffs@gmail.com) to let him know your intention for class. Feel free to ask any and all questions you may have about this. *Your servant in Christ, Pastor Todd*

**SOUL MINISTRIES** in person will resume again. Pastor Todd and a number of parish volunteers are assisting to ensure the worship, music, food, fellowship, arts/crafts & Bible Bingo continues for this very neglected segment of our society. Between 15 and 20 people who have been the most isolated through COVID are the priority for this outreach. START UP DATE TBD very soon! We thank you for your patience.

<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance: September 18th, 2022</u>      <u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 73</u></b>					
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Need</u></b>	<b><u>Last Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>	<b><u>+ or – (--)</u></b>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	1,434.00	148,040.84	(58,979.51)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	92.00	10,933.50	( 3,682.38)
Property Improvement:			41.00	4,449.00	

**\*OPEN DOORS\***: Thank you for your amazing number of ideas! We have grouped like-ideas (e.g. games), Chairs of Committees have reviewed and grouped ideas under appropriate committees. What is next? Read the list of ideas given out this morning (or request a copy from Louise). Place the 5 sticky dots on ideas you would like to see happen at Christ Lutheran. .IF YOU feel so moved to volunteer and help make your sticky dot idea a reality, please sign your name on a sheet. Once you've selected your 'Top 5' sticky dot ideas - place the list in the box at the back of the church as you leave.

**HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY** to Jennifer Hoeffs ( yesterday, September 24th!)

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**: Tim Reck, Fellowship Chair, needs volunteers for events. Please contact him if you can help.

**LMWL-C/MARY MARTHA:**

***This is such an exciting time to welcome back and extend an invitation to everyone for our new Fall/Winter program. Please mark your calendars so that you may be able to join us:***

**Sunday, October 2: LWML-C Sunday**

**Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m.:** Speaker from Salem Chapel - Rochelle Bush (*underground railroad*)

**Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m.** Assembly of ***Warm Feet for the Streets*** sock blessings.

**Saturday, November 26: BAZAAR**

**Tuesday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.:** **Advent/Christmas Dinner**

We look forward to seeing familiar faces at our meetings and welcoming new faces! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Lorraine at 905 964 5837!

***<sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3: 14-16***

**“YARD SALE ‘THANKS’”**: Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to so many who helped with the Yard Sale last Saturday! **\*\*We earned \$1,300.00 for our Mission projects !\*\***So greatly appreciated!! We are blessed with such an amazing group of willing workers in our congregation and it's great and also enjoyable when so many of us can work together. Having a barbeque with hot dogs, coffee, cold drinks and baked items as well, was an excellent addition to the yard sale items, and really added to the earnings. Special thanks to Judy and Paul, Al & Heather Simons and Tim Reck. Thank you also to those who took the left over items that were packed up, to other donation spots. All in all it was a great day! Best of all, \$1300 will be donated because that is our whole reason for doing fund raisers. Carole



Niagara Zone

# Fall Rally

**THEME:**

THE  
POWER OF  
THE  
GOSPEL

For I am not ashamed of the good news. It is God's power to save everyone who believes it, the Jew first and also the Greek. It reveals God's righteousness as being by faith and for faith, as the Bible says: By faith you are righteous and you shall live. (Romans 1:16)

**October 2, 2022 at 1pm**  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**1299 Brant Street, Burlington, Ontario**

**SPEAKER:** POYA ZAMANI. His journey to the Seminary in St Catharines, began in Afghanistan.

**INGATHERING:** Halton Women's Centre accepts Presto or grocery gift cards, new women's and children's clothing, and hygiene products as well as monetary donations.

**THE MITE BOX:** We have the opportunity to take a special offering **NEXT Sunday, October 2nd for Mites**. Based on the Biblical story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4) in the King James Version (more recent versions refer to a small coin worth less than a penny) the mite box is intended for regular contribution of "mites" - offerings above and beyond, and not in competition to, the support given to the congregation and the church body.

The **MITE BOX** (or tin) is more than just a small cardboard box! It is a reminder:

- to share blessings from God,
- to pray for mission projects,
- to thank the Lord for mission opportunities.

Mite box contributions amount to thousands of dollars. They allow the contributors, through the national body of LWML-Canada, to provide mission grants which assist others in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to implement the LWMLC program. **"What can my little mite do?"**



**NOTE: \*\*\*\*\*Please contact Fran or Carole before next Sunday, if you would like a ride. They will give you details as to what time they will leave from the church parking lot\*\*\***

CREATIVE LUTHERAN COMMUNION  
THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
September 25, 2022 + 10 AM

FIRST HYMN: "For The Beauty Of The Earth" [As With Gladness tune]

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child.  
for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, pleas - ures pure and un - de - filed,  
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1864), alt.  
TUNE: Konrad Kocher (1838)

7.7.7.7.7. Trochaic  
DIX (581 H) [www.Hymnary.org](http://www.Hymnary.org)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

You are my hiding place, O Lord;

**you will save me from trouble.**

I sing aloud of your salvation,

**because you protect me.**

Then I confessed my sins to you;

**I did not conceal my wrongdoings.**

Looking for mercy from the Blessed Trinity, let us confess our sins together, as one people. O Gracious God,

**our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and gift us with grace to grow more into the likeness and image of Your dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, in Whom we have life. Amen.**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE:

[Tune: Ode To Joy]



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Loving Father, You have so generously given us all that we are and all that we call our own. Give us Your grace and help us manage our possessions wisely, that we may serve You and our neighbour, so that what we have may not be a curse in our lives, but an instrument for blessing and peace. We pray through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

**The Old Testament:** *Amos 6: 1a, 4-7*

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the notables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel resorts!....Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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



**The Epistle: 1 Timothy 6: 6-17**

[St. Paul writes:] Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

(Tune: LSB # 901)

S 205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 16:19-31**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED:

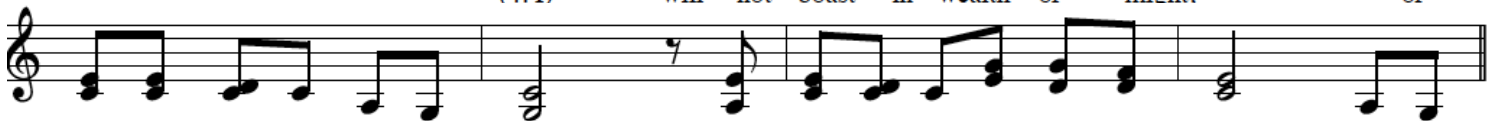
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance 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:

*“My Worth Is Not In What I Own”*



1. My worth is not in what I own; not  
 (2. My) worth is not in skill or name; in  
 (3. As) sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,  
 (4. I) will not boast in wealth or might. or



in the strength of flesh and bone. But in the cost - ly wounds of love at the  
 win or lose, in pride or shame. But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the  
 youth and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e - ter - nal calls to us at the  
 hu - man wis - dom's fleet - ing light. But I will boast in know - ing Christ at the



cross.  
 cross.  
 cross.  
 cross.

2. My I re-joyce in my Re -  
 4. I



-deem - er. Great -est treas - ure, well-spring of my soul. I will trust in Him, no



oth - er; my soul is sat - is - fied in Him a - lone.



## MESSAGE

**OFFERINGS** *are gathered.*

## PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your generosity in the wonders of your creation, giving us life and supplying all we truly need day by day. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with many gifts to give thanks every day and to avoid faithless hoarding and worry about the future.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for the gifts of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank you for his faithfulness to you, and for telling us of him in the scriptures. Help us to study and know the scriptures well, and to entrust our whole lives to what you tell us in them. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with the riches of your grace to tell of your forgiveness and redemption.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, open our eyes to see poverty and human need, and then to respond as you would have us. Move us and all people to be rich in good works, in response to what we have received from you. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with material riches to share them generously.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Remove injustices perpetrated by the rich and powerful on the poor and weak. Bring relief to refugees displaced from their homes. Thank you for the financial support given to those in need through many supporters, and move all in authority to ensure the best and fairest possible assistance. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with supportive community to reach out in love and friendship.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Watch over the sick, the elderly, and those who are struggling in their personal lives. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with health and happiness to share the burdens of those who suffer. And support those known to us personally in need [names added...]

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

For a long memory of the mercies God has shown to us and for a short memory of those who have wronged us, that our bitterness may give way to love and peace,

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

And finally gracious God, bring us at last through all trials and deliver us into Your Kingdom without end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

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

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection, opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Slane tune

Ho -- ly Most Ho - ly, all ho -- ly the Lord,  
 Bles - sed most bles - sed, all bles - sed is He,  
 In pow' r and wis - dom for - ev - er a - dored!  
 He makes us whole and His death sets us free;  
 Earth and the heav - ens are full of your love;  
 Comes in the name of the Fath - er of light!  
 Joy - ful ho - san - nas re - e - cho a - bove.  
 End - less ho - san - nas re - sound in the height.

Words: © 1995 Kevin Mayhew Ltd; [www.songselect.ccli.com/Songs/5770825/holy-most-holy-slane](http://www.songselect.ccli.com/Songs/5770825/holy-most-holy-slane)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come...**

**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. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

"O Jesus Christ"

(Tune: "Just as I Am")

O Jes - us Chri - st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You  
 Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;  
 And bless us with Your peace; A -- men.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMN:

*"Risen Lord We Gather"*



Ris -- en Lord, we gath-er 'round you, Drawn by words for-ev-er new:



"Come, my peo-ple, all. Are. Wel-come; Share the feast pre-pared for you!"



Emp - ty hands and hearts that hung-er, Christ, we bring to you to--day.



Here you feed us with your Bo. - dy, Gift of love for which we pray.

Sisters, brothers, stand beside us, Called from every land and race.  
One the Bread of Life that feeds us, One the Cup of brimming grace.  
Form us, Lord, a single body, Free from enmity and strife.  
Jesus, by your resurrection, Fill us with the Spirit's life.

By the Loaf and Cup you offer, Strengthen us to follow you.  
By your Body, risen, given, Heal us, Christ, and make us new.  
Help us hear your urgent summons, Cutting through our fear of loss:  
"Go, my people! Be my servants! Bear with me the waiting cross!"

"Go where lives are bruised and broken; Go where children waste and blight.  
Go among the lost, forgotten; Be for them my healing Light.  
Take the Bread of Life I give you; Share it with a world in pain.  
Go, my people! I am with you Till on earth my love shall reign!"

*Words: Herman Stuempfle © 2002 GIA Publications*

*Tune: Holy Manna William Moore, 18<sup>th</sup> Century American Folk www. Hymnary. Org*

POST COMMUNION SONG: "Free Now To Go"

[Tune: "This is the Day"]

Free now to go; free now to go, in Your prom-ised, peace, in Your  
Prom-ised, peace; my eyes have seen, my eyes have seen, Your  
Sav-ing grace, Your sav - ing grace! Peo-ple can see from the  
Light You shine, Is-rael's true glo-ry-- now is mine;  
Free now to go , free now to go, in Your peace, O Lord.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics placed below the notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: D, A7, G, and D.

Words: Russell Schulz-Widmar, alt © 2006 Augsburg – Music: Les Garrett, © 1967 [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)

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**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Holy God, You bless creation and abide with Your Church in every place and time. In Christ Jesus, Your Son, we gather together as One at His table. Just as Jesus stayed with the disciples in the Breaking of the Bread at their meal, so may He now stay with us in the gifts of Bread and Wine we have received and may His Body and Blood open us to share Him with all we meet, in the abiding love of Jesus Christ we pray, Who with the Holy Spirit You live and reign as One, O Lord God, now and always. **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.**

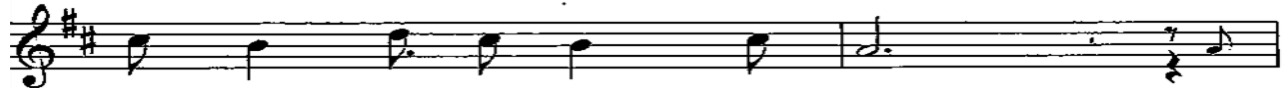
## SENDING HYMN:

## "On Eagles' Wings"

LSB # 727



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -  
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And  
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the  
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,  
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;  
 ar - row that flies by day; Though  
 guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My  
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His  
 thou - sands fall a - bout you, His  
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



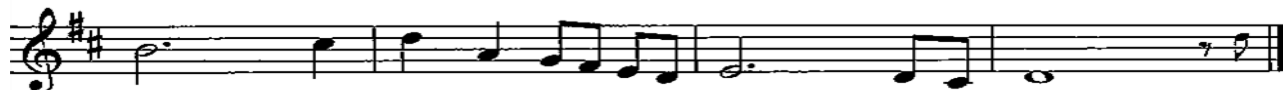
rock in whom I trust!"  
 faith - ful - ness your shield.  
 Near you it shall not come.  
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

*Refrain*

And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

*Lyrics available in hymn accompaniment edition.*

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951  
 Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951

Text and tune: © OCP Publications

ON EAGLES' WINGS  
 Irregular meter

Ps. 91:1-12; 103:5

**REV TODD HOFFFS**

**PENTECOST 19 (series C)**

**Scripture: St. Luke 16:19-31**

**Title: "You Never Give Me Your Money..."**

**September 25, 2022**

"Hungry. Homeless. Anything helps. God bless you". That's what's usually written in black marker on the cardboard signs people hold on the corners hoping for something from a driver.

Some people give pocket change, or an extra cup of coffee or a bottle of water – We don't see them anymore, those folks on the corners. As we walk through life we don't notice them and don't even think about them. I've seen people walk by them on the sidewalk and give an angry stare to them— As if it's their fault they're begging, like they're an annoyance and shouldn't be there.

As I waited for a cup of coffee at a Tim Horton's, a middle aged Asian man standing nearby pointed to my collar and asked if I was a minister. I nodded. He asked what church and I told him. He explained about his apartment building nearby, how he's the landlord.

"Do you attend church?" I asked. "Oh...I used to, many years ago....[pause]...I have church in my heart." "Many Christians do not have church in their heart." "One of my tenants – Goes to church every week, talks about being Christian, but he lies, he doesn't pay his rent on time, doesn't show being Christian very well..." "yes, that's a very poor witness". "Yes. Many many people in the world don't go to church but they have church in their hearts." Yes. God works through people everywhere – and church needs them. Going to church----church in the heart. That's an unforgettable conversation. And a profound lesson. Being aware of what we do and how we live is a vivid witness.

Being aware of Lazarus is all that the rich man needed to do. He needed to care. The rich man in Jesus' story does not see Lazarus. And there are plenty of Lazarus' around. In some ways we are nowhere near the place Lazarus is in And in some ways it wouldn't take much to end up in the same place as Lazarus With the global economy as it is now. Too, too often, people are simply invisible to us. Daily Lazarus sits and begs at the rich man's gate. A gate to a house, with servants and guests and "lives sumptuously". Lazarus means "God is my help." And without a doubt, in the end God was the only help Lazarus had. This rich man isn't bad because he's rich, or because he never goes without what he wants or desires. The rich man's problem is ----he doesn't care.

Lazarus is in need and is sick and weak and lays there hoping to even get a crumb from the table. Dogs come to lick his sores, which may seem touching but is the height of public embarrassment in ancient middle-eastern life. The Old Testament is very clear: Care for those in need around you, from within the house of Israel and even the "stranger ate the gate". **All** of our lives are caught up with one another in ways that have consequences now and consequences into eternity.

For Jesus Christ is not only present in His believers but also in the lives and hearts and faces of those who have need. Anyone. And when we truly see others, notice others, we live in a way that acknowledges the truth that we all belong to one another. In this life. Right now. As we are our brother (and sister's) keepers. And again, the RICH MAN is not hell bound because of his riches – nor that Lazarus is bound for Heaven because HE IS POOR AND DOWNTRODDEN.

To Jesus' audience hearing this story then, it would've been shocking. A big role and class and religious reversal. Everyone, rich or poor fully believed that the rich were blessed by God and loved more than others, instantly added to the Heavenly Kingdom. It would be the poor Lazarus types going to hell 'cause God DIDN'T HELP THEM IN THIS LIFE WITH EARTHLY MEANS.

So we shouldn't go away blaming ourselves that we do not focus all our energy on helping every beggar on every corner become comfortable like we are. It would be an impossible task and it wouldn't be enough. As much as Jesus loved and cared for the poor, sick and hurting in life, He also said "the poor you will always have." Does that mean if we give a few loonies to a guy on the corner we'll be in Abraham's bosom and not in Hell?! No, that's not what this is about.



No amount of charity will buy your way into Heaven and will not reduce the vast space between Heaven and Hell. Lazarus is rewarded because he trusted in GOD FOR HELP, lived a lowly existence off the generosity of others, was cast away as garbage, ate the crumbs along with dogs and was a humble, meek person whom God helped in the end. The rich man, was happy in his riches, FEASTED SUMPTUOUSLY and, like the Pharisees heard from Jesus often, was a lover of money. There's a difference between being rich and a lover of money. Anyone can be a lover of money, for what you treasure is what you love. A lover of money is greedy, obsessed, doing whatever it takes to create more and more. Our Lord is concerned about all people in need.

As His dear siblings we daily reveal God's presence in our lives by sharing His concerns and by being HIS PRESNECE wherever we go. Helping people is important and we do so whenever and however we're able because that's simply who and how God's people are to be. The question isn't what's in it for me but what's in it for them. Remember, there is a relationship between this life and the next life. The choices we make, the words we speak, and the actions we take in this life matter today and when we reach the end of our lives. Our beliefs, our way of living out Christ in our daily walk, The church in our hearts offers a deep abiding relationship with God Who raises up the broken down through His Son. NO ONE is even ignored or unseen by God. He knows the secrets of all people's hearts. He knows our struggles, our fears, our worries, our sicknesses and hurts as well as our joys and delights and reasons to celebrate. We can all name times when life has been good, full, and easy. Likewise, we can name times when life has simply left us destitute, broken, and in sorrow and suffering. Jesus comes and offers us a way out. His life bridges the gap, that great chasm, which human sin and death have enlarged.. Our Lord, the Architect of the Universe, became nothing, one from whom people hid their faces, a rabbi no one wanted to listen to much less look at. And yet as the world looked on Him whom they pierced with nails and a spear, at the cross, the divide between life and death, have and have not is bridged with a blood stained crucifix. In fact the wall dividing humanity and God in the temple was torn in half from top to bottom. All have access to God, to Heaven, to hope and new life. ALL. Resurrected and living Jesus becomes the door all may enter through Into the joys of eternal life and rest. We've been drawn near to God as He's reached down into our lives through Baptism. Not only do we have free access, but this is how the living Lord lives inside each one of us. The marking of His cross on us makes us then bridges of help to others. That's what an ambassador for Christ is – a bridge builder. And so the divide becomes shorter in distance when we love our neighbor as ourselves, every time we love our enemies, every time we see and treat one another as created in the image and likeness of God, gates are opened and divides are made accessible. Christ's love, mercy, grace, and presence make it possible for us to open our gates in life and insure they do not become wide spaces which divide us. There's enough polarity in culture, politics and religion today. We need more church in peoples' hearts. The fate for the rich man is doom. He desires no bridge, no help, no forgiveness. HE doesn't apologize. He doesn't think he should've lived differently. He only asks for ease in the hellish life he sits in. His only concern is for his five remaining brothers. They're living the same kind of life he lived. And so they're at peril of the same fate. The rich man begs Abraham up in Heaven to warn them with a real shocker. Send Lazarus back from the dead. Wow! What an arrogant ask. Why Lazarus? They have Moses and the prophets. They have the word of God in their very midst, God's revelation in their sacred scrolls. let them listen or read those. It's all in there to care for others. But if someone should come back from the dead they'd change their ways. Nope, Abraham says if they don't listen to the Word of God they won't be convinced even if a corpse talks. Those who can resist the word of God in Scripture won't find it difficult to explain away some guy whose been dead. Many struggle believing in Jesus Himself rising from the dead! Humility of Lazarus shows us how rich we are because we belong to God. Our Lord offers a meal of welcome, where unknown guests are turned into friends and beneficiaries of grace.

God's forgiveness and the very Flesh and Blood of Jesus, Who has opened the path to paradise for all to eat and drink and live new lives by His Holy Spirit's work. This is what the kingdom of God looks like. We already have everything we need. That was Abraham's point in not sending Lazarus to the

rich man's brothers. If they can't help those who are seen in need, how will they believe one they cannot see, God Himself, even when He rises from the dead. And He will. He did. Easter happened. Heaven restored. Nothing is lacking. In the message of the Gospel the world has all it needs to enjoy peace and new life. Sometimes we will be like Lazarus, lowly, meek, in need, dependent on the Lord; and sometimes we will be the rich man, feasting sumptuously on what the Lord provides, confident in our faith, able to see the LORD

in the face of those the LORD gives to us on our path.

We have so much to give.

All we are is from God.

All we have to share is His Son's Gospel.

And the church that is in our hearts.

Amen.