

# THE 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church of St. Catharines, ON

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 Hoefts (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)  
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**Bulletin by email:** [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\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**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, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: John 6: 24-33      Wednesday: John 15: 1-8      Friday: 1 Pet. 2: 5-10  
Tuesday: Exod. 16: 2-7a; 13-15      Thursday: 1 Cor. 10: 14-22      Saturday: Acts 5: 1-11

**Musicians:** Mayumi Munoz  
**Reader:** Seminary Student, Vijay Samuel

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES** to Peter (Gail), Robert (Elizabeth), Barb (Bruce) & their children & grandchildren at the loss of their Mother & Grandmother, **Margarete Higenell**, who went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Thursday, October 18 in her 95<sup>th</sup> year.

***"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in Spirit."*** Psalm 34:18  
Visitation at George Darte Funeral Home, 585 Carlton Street, Tuesday, October 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Christian Funeral will be held in the sanctuary at Christ Lutheran Church on Wednesday, October 25 at 11 a.m., luncheon to follow.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 to 9:50 am - Coffee Hour & Sunday School  
9:10 to 9:50 am - Confirmation  
10:00 am – Worship – Divine Service 3  
Monday: 10:00 - 11:00 am – Luther Manor Bible Study  
Tuesday: 9:30 - 11:00 am – Precious Moments  
Wednesday: 11:00 am – Christian Funeral for Margarete Higenell, luncheon to follow  
Thursday: 10:00 -11:30 am – SOUL  
7:00 pm – Women's Bible Study  
Friday: 5:00 pm - Gnocchi Night at Club Roma

# CHRIST'S CAFÉ



**Hope to see you downstairs  
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!**  
Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:  
Judy Mason 905-641-7546

## OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Oct. 22 – Divine Service Setting 3 [TLH page 15 style]
- Oct. 29 – Reformation Holy Communion / Confirmation Sunday



### Church news for October!

SOUL Ministries continues on Thursdays: 10 - 11:30 AM

Youth Catechism class continues October 2, 15, & 22: 9:10 - 9:50 AM

Youth publicly confess their Baptismal Faith October 29 @ 10 AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We have Preschool in the nursery and Grades 1-6 together. Sunday School is a weekly event from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. concurrent with **Coffee Hour** --not just for families but a time of sharing for everyone! **TODAY:** Moses as an infant escapes death and is rescued by Pharaoh's daughter. As an adult he leaves behind his life of privilege and encounters the living God in a burning bush. God directs and equips Moses to rescue His chosen people from slavery in Egypt. Bible Memory Verse: **"Fear not, for I am with you, I am your God; I will strengthen you."** Isaiah 41:10

**RITE OF CONFIRMATION:** Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> is Reformation Sunday and the day our Youth will publicly affirm their Baptismal faith in the Rite of Confirmation. Please plan on attending and supporting them as they witness the faith given to them in the waters of their baptism.

**LWML-C Zone/National Events:** You are invited to any or all of the events below.

October 31– Deadline for submission of Mission Grant Proposals. Those mission grants will be voted on at Convention in London, Ontario in July, 2024. Please see Lorraine for more details.

### **Mary Martha - Christ Lutheran Events:**

Tuesday, November 21, 7 p.m. – Packaging "Warm feet for the Streets" Care Kits for the "Out of the Cold" program

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday, December 19, 5:30pm – Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program

**THE NEXT WORSHIP MEETING** will be held on **Wednesday, November 1st at 7:30 p.m.**



**TURN CLOCKS BACK!!** Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour **Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**MISSION TALK AND SLIDE SHOW:** Sunday, November 5, 3:00 p.m. Come to Grace Lutheran Church (213 Linwell Road) to hear David Friesen, LCC's Director of Advancement, speak about the state of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua. Join us for the talk and stay for a time of refreshments and fellowship afterwards! Hope to see you there!

**JELLO-ON-A-STICK is back!!** **Saturday, November 18th** there is a day retreat for all youth & confirmands. The theme is **"God's calling in your life."** Cost is just \$10. Let Louise, Val or Dan know by Nov. 12th so we can arrange transportation. We will leave 8:30 a.m. & return by 5 p.m.

# CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 16, 2023

at

“The Watering Can”  
(3711 King Street, Vineland)

5:30 pm: Fellowship

6:30 pm: Workshop - Starts Promptly

**\*\*\*TRADITIONAL URN\*\*\***

- make your own through step-by-step instructions
- Bring your own wine or other beverage (goodies supplied)

**Cost is \$75.00 (SOUL Fundraiser)**



Secure your spot by giving your registration money to Wendy Shook (905-380-6544) by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>!  
*Friends are welcome to join us!!*

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please sign up at the back of the church  
for the day and time that best suits you:

- Tuesday, November 21
- Wednesday, November 22
- Thursday, November 23
- Friday, November 24

**\*\*\*Each photographed family receives a FREE DIRECTORY.\*\*\***



**CLC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Saturday, November 25, 9 am to 2 pm

Mark it on your calendars now!!!

Start thinking about what you can bake or crafts you can make or ways you can help.

Please spread the word, more information coming soon!



**NEEDED: Men's shoes and boots.** The Niagara Mobile Closet is in need of men's shoes and boots for the homeless. Please drop off in the box at the back of the church. Thank You!



# “WARM FEET FOR THE STREET”



THE LWML / MARY MARTHA  
are filling warm socks for the “Out of the Cold” program at their  
November meeting.

## Contributions of any of the following would be most appreciated:

- Large, warm socks
- Toothpaste (small)
- Lip balm
- Hand or Foot warmers
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Deodorant

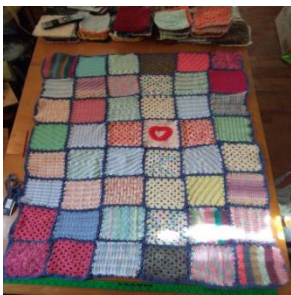
- Bars of soap (travel size)
- Hand lotion (travel size)
- Plastic Band-aids
- Small packages of Kleenex
- Hats
- Scarves
- Warm Gloves

There’s a box at the back for your donations.

For more information, please contact Wendy Hyatt or Paytra Schurmann-Smith

<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u></b>		<b><u>Oct. 15th, 2023</u></b>		<b><u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 102 SOUL: 36</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	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,398.45	232,420.07	(8,143.81)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	135.00	13,655.00	(75.77)
Property Improvement:			154.00	5,481.00	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Frank & Ivy Parkhouse to celebrate their Wedding Anniversary and both of their birthdays.



**Granny Squares still needed:** This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**CHURCH CALENDAR**—Please note—if you have any dates or events you want listed in the November Church Calendar, please let Pat know soon as calendars go out next Sunday. Thanks☺  
secretary@christlutheransc.ca

**NEEDED: Men's shoes and boots.** The Niagara Mobile Closet is in need of men's shoes and boots for the homeless. Please drop off in the box at the back of the church. Thank You!



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX GIFT

Operation Christmas Child has become a Holiday tradition for many of us here at Christ Church. The love and care put into every shoebox gift has changed the lives of children worldwide, and I think we can say it has changed us as well. Together, let's continue to make these children an important part of our Christmas celebration by extending Christ's love and compassion.

([www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca))

## HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

1. Pick up a designated shoebox from the narthex.
2. Decide on the category and age. Girl/Boy 2-4; 5-9; 10-14
3. Fill the box, mark it and put an elastic around it.
4. Enclose a \$10.00 cheque (made out to Christ Lutheran) to cover postage to send your box and put it in the offering basket – designated "Samaritan's Purse" – CLC will tax receipt your donation and mail donations to Samaritan's Purse as a lump sum.
5. Drop your box off at the Church by Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

## SUGGESTED GIFTS

- Toys: slinky, yo-yo, kazoos, animals, stickers, dolls, balls, cars
- School Supplies: pens, paper, stamps, markers, calculators, pencil crayons & sharpener, colouring books
- Hygiene Items: soap, toothbrush, comb, washcloth, **NO** toothpaste or shampoo
- Other: hard candy only, sunglasses, ball caps, socks, flip flops, watches, hairclips, T-shirts, underwear, small picture books, flashlights, batteries

Please **DO NOT** include: used items, war related items, medicines, cosmetics, breakable items, perishable foods or liquids (shampoo, etc.), gum

□

October 22, 2023



Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ:

Progress is being made on getting things ready for Kareem and Hamida. We have secured a place to rent for them and Ivy and others are in the process of gathering things for their residence.

When we first started the process to sponsor this family in September 2020 Ameer was 3 years old and Asser was only 9 months, and they were living in a room in a hotel in Greece. We received a lot of help from Jennifer at Canadian Lutheran World Relief processing all the forms required by Canadian Immigration. It was finally in December 2020 that we received the news their application had been accepted. This is a quote from my September 2020 note to you: *“Getting through government red tape is not easy”*, how true that statement proved to be. We thank God His hand has been on this process and



answering our prayers.



Kareem and Hamida started out from Nasiriyah, Iraq on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with Ameer as a baby (Ameer was born in November 2017). They stayed in Turkey for 4 days and travelled by rubber raft to the Greek island of Samos. There they spent 4 months in a tent. Hamida miscarried a baby there when she slipped in the mud in the camp. After the tent they were transferred to an iron caravan. Historically Samos is a very bad refugee camp. Eventually they were moved to the mainland of Greece. Little Asser was born on the mainland in January 2020. They were housed in a hotel room until Christmas 2020 when they were sent to an apartment complex owned by the Greek government for refugees in Athens. They were in this apartment with one other refugee family until Christmas of December 2022. At this time they were then moved to a camp in Athens into an iron caravan. Their journey has been over 5 years now.

The final stage of the processing by immigration is being completed. Please pray this process will have them arrive very soon. I had compiled a power point presentation for the LWML Convention last year and also showed it to our Mary Martha here. An interesting historical fact is that they began their journey from the ancient city of Ur, the very same city that God called Abraham out of to the Promised Land, and to complete his work of salvation through his only Son, Jesus the Christ.

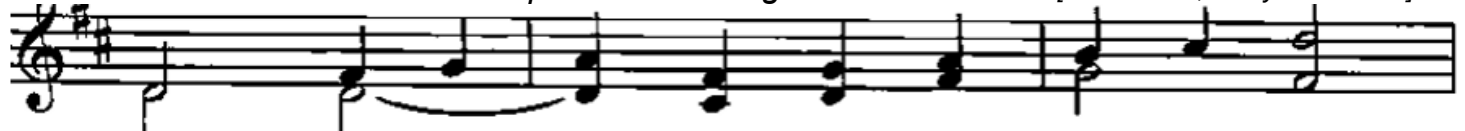
***God’s Blessings from Your Refugee Committee.***



SERVICE OF THE WORD  
LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING THREE

The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
October 22, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

OPENING HYMN: "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" [Tune: Here, O My Lord I See]



1 E - ter - nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ,  
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vi - sion clear



I know not how to ask or what to say;  
Help me to see Your pur - pose and Your will—  
Of hu - man need; O give me eyes to see



I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,  
Where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;  
Ful - fill - ment of my life in love out-poured,



And on - ly You can teach me how to pray.  
Held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.  
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–96, alt.  
Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662; setting: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Text: © 1974 The Hymn Society; admin. Hope Publishing Co.  
Tune: Public domain; setting: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

FARLEY CASTLE  
10 10 10 10

Rom. 8:26–27; Eph. 6:18; Luke 11:1–4; 22:42

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

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

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**who made heaven and earth.**

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*[Brief silence for prayerful thoughts for self-awareness.]*



O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.

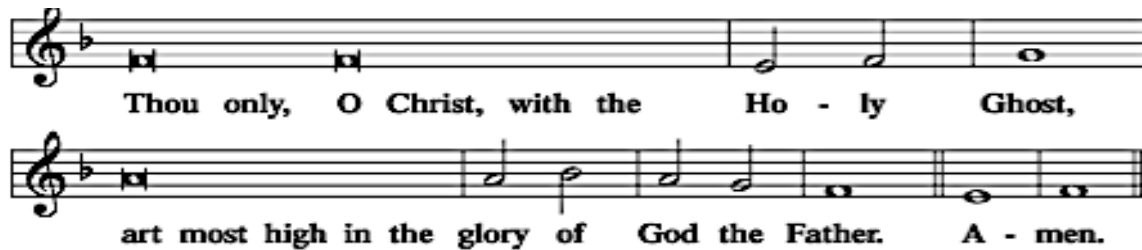
Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY [KYRIE]

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

### HYMN OF PRAISE [GLORIA]

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Lord God, keep Your family faithful to You. Protect us from all evil, so that we may serve You by doing good works, to the glory of Your name. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ 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: *Exodus 33: 12-23*

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen." This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### The Epistle: *1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM:

### **"Forth In The Peace"**

Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.

King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; Kingship with Him, His servants gain;  
With Christ the Servant Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's call.

Priests of the world, Christ send us forth, this world of time to consecrate,  
This world of sin by grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to recreate.

Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak; Prophets are we whose deeds proclaim  
Christ's truth in love that we may be Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.

Forth in the peace of Christ we go.

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## SUNG ALLELUIA VERSE



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 22: 15-22

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter:



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marvelled. And they left him and went away. This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, 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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL HYMN: "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" [Tune Hymn to Joy]

God, Whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store--  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door--  
gifted by You, we turn to You, off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious Donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labour, lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted, gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred,  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
leading, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.

Words: Robert L. Edwards © 1961, renewed 1989 by The Hymn Society (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. [www.oremus.org/hymnal/g/g299.html](http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/g/g299.html)

## MESSAGE

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**THE OFFERING** *is received.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father: bless, guide and keep your church and ground her firmly in your word and promises. Continue to move faithful Pastors to share the Gospel, and faithful people to shine as lights in the world. Give us the strength to stand firm on your word against opposition or temptations. Keep our eyes from looking to worldly things for support, but only to you, the one who will never fails us!

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

Send your spirit to guide all believers in your paths. Give us love and compassion towards all people around us, and especially those in need. Bless the work of service organisations that help needy people, in particular Canadian Lutheran World Relief and all helpful agencies local and around the globe.

Lord in your mercy:       **Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father, send your hand to help people in our world that are malnourished and starving; people who suffer mistreatment and abuse; people who live lives filled with hatred, whether hatred towards you or their neighbours. Comfort those who are dying, and anyone suffering from illnesses. We especially pray for those in our own community (*insert names here*)

Lord in your mercy:       **Hear our prayer**

Generous God, you call us to lives of service. In our words and actions this day, move us to serve in Christ's name. When we lack energy, inspire us. When we lack courage, strengthen us. When we lack compassion, be merciful to us, for the sake of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy:       **Hear our prayer**

Father, you are the true and living God. Continue to give us the strength to live as your servants, and to wait for the deliverance that you give us in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, 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, Thy kingdom come.....**

CLOSING PRAYER:       *[spoken together]*

**Almighty God, Your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SUNG GREETING & BENEDICTION:**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\dagger$  give you peace.

**C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

**CLOSING HYMN:** "O How I Love Jesus"

[www.hymnary.org/text/OHowILoveJesus](http://www.hymnary.org/text/OHowILoveJesus)

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its
2. It tells me of a Sav - ior's love, Who died to set me
3. It tells me what my Fa - ther has In store for ev - 'ry
4. It tells of One whose lov - ing heart Can feel my deep - est

worth; It sounds like mu - sic in my ear, The sweet - est  
 free; It tells me of His pre - cious blood, The sin - ner's  
 day, And though I tread a gloom - y path, Yields sun - shine  
 woe, Who in each sor - row bears a part, That none can



name on earth.  
per - fect plea.  
all the way.  
bear be - low.

O how I love Je - sus, O how I love



Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus, Be - cause He first loved me!

Text: Frederick Whitfield, 1829-1904

Tune: HOW I LOVE JESUS, CM with refrain; American melody

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 21

Scripture: St. Matthew 22: 15-22

Christ or CAESAR -- Coin of the Realm

October 22, 2023

Two things in life you can be sure of is death and taxes. American Ben Franklin coined this phrase. Part of our working culture is complaining about high taxes and the ever-increasing cost of living. A 12 pack of pop costs \$6.49 on sale – but south of the border that same 12 pack cost \$14.99 US!!!!!! I lived the 1<sup>st</sup> 24 years of life as an American and have lived the last 25 years of life as a Canadian, [3 provinces] I usually tell my American friends that at the very least, most things here are taxed “thoughtfully”? Maybe? This Matthew passage always reminds me of the Beatles song TAXMAN. [Revolver LP] I loved those famous lines: “If you try to sit, I’ll tax your feet—If you take a walk, I’ll tax your feet”!

Well, taxes impact even the location Jesus’ birth. Our God coming to earth made His parents travel until nightfall to find shelter. Roman officials want them in Bethlehem for the census.

However, tax isn’t the main idea of Jesus’ lesson today as written by Matthew.

And he would know, being a tax man himself! It’s all about giving. Generous giving.

Giving freely from a place of gratitude because God has given you so much,

+Since we are all re-made in the image of Christ, Our lives should and will imitate His way.

It doesn’t help that the religious leaders of the day are lovers of money. Naturally, they ask about paying taxes. Does God like us paying tribute in the form of taxes to Caesar?

The Pharisees oppose paying taxes to Caesar: The Herodians (close followers of King Herod’s Court) support taxes to Caesar (as it feathers their own nests). So, Jesus—who do you side with—Rome or your own people? Are you for the King of Israel or the King of Pagans like the Romans? It’s not about the money. It’s control and power. “Show Me the coin used for the tax.” Great answer. Denarius. With Caesar’s profile stamped on it. [SON OF GOD] Interesting they have it. It’s idolatry for them to carry any graven image. This is why the temple has money changers. But if you only care about divisiveness, belief goes out the window. The denarius is a small, silver coin. It pays the annual personal property tax tribute to Caesar. Romans conquered Israel and make them pay tax to keep the empire going.

At that time it’s about a day’s wage for a labourer. It had the image of the Emperor and his name stamped on it. The coin everyone has for every day’s transactions.

It bears Rome’s stamp of ownership on it. Caesar supplied Israel with his coinage as a stable means of exchange. Actually, it was a great help to their whole economy and beneficial to all of Caesar’s conquered nations. Every Kingdom has its own monetary system—ours today is based on the decimal system relying upon the US dollar (from Wikipedia). Our pockets have lots of coins jangling around, toonies for cups of Tim’s coffee. It’s been many, many years since money was based on a gold standard, which was Caesar’s standard. ++++

THE TRUE SON OF GOD, Creator of Heaven and earth, Unto Whom belongs all authority Holds the coin with Caesar who is the son of god to many a Roman citizen. Jesus’ answer is common sense in a way; Faith is simple: You got this coin from Caesar, if he asks that you give some back in tax, then give back. Then Jesus adds the real dig—give back to God what belongs to God! 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment – honour your father and mother and all those in authority over you. Caesar did offer stability and civil justice to Israel. Jesus wasn’t saying the Roman Empire was perfect, but God did establish it and used it as long as it lasted. Just as we wouldn’t say our government is perfect; but God established it and will use it as long as it lasts.



Earthly governments are temporary. Giving back to God what is His Is about a Kingdom in Heaven Coming down to earth in Jesus with a completely different “monetary coinage!” Caesar’s coined is backed by gold and soldiers. Our almighty ruler comes without a military Sword and instead brings His Word and Spirit, sharper than any Roman weapon. “God’s Coin” isn’t loot, but love. First, God gives life. He creates us, gives us a family with our parents, spouses; Every breath we take, we owe to our Maker and Sustainer. Secondly, as our Supporter, God provides our daily bread. It feels like we earn our bread by hard work. Labour is God-pleasing, and serves our fellow brothers and sisters; but bread is the gift of God. Without God’s providence and protection, His gift of growth, seasons, and abilities, none of us would have a crust of bread or a chicken leg on our table. Thirdly, God uses governing authorities to safeguard our daily bread and protect us from harm. Even when the rulers themselves act evil, God works through them and us to advocate And point us to His Son Reminding us of true justice. As He knows what is best for us at the right time. The true “Coin of God’s Realm” is often missed. The religious leaders Jesus calls lovers of money. They twist God’s Laws keeping people under control. Hypocrites Jesus calls them. In the Roman theatre culture, hypocrites wear masks. Like the old image of a smiling mask and a frowning mask. 2 faces. Hypocrites try hiding from the God Who sees all. All of us are guilty of this at times. Some days we like to think a halo glows around our head; Some days we think it’s good wearing a more tarnished halo, Wallowing in the messes we make. That’s why masks are handy. Buys us time. Cupboards and rooms have doors for reasons! Being a hypocrite is always wrong because it’s always keeps us in love with ourselves more than God. And we are in love with ourselves more because we trust in ourselves rather than trusting in God and all that He gives us in Jesus. Jesus changes everything. We love God by loving our fellow brothers and sisters here and out there. Because He first loved us. When we begin really seeing Christ as the answer to all our problems, then we see within our own lives change and grace and peace and joy. Jesus is the True Treasure beyond all earthly goods. Jesus is the Coin of God’s Kingdom Straight from Heaven’s vault, carrying the exact imprint of God’s nature in human flesh. Jesus’ buying power is not based on gold or silver, but on His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death on the Cross as Lord over all the living. Jesus’ cross creates a blood standard. Because every person of the world owes a debt to God no amount of anything could pay it off. With Jesus’ blood currency, there is total and complete and free forgiveness of sins. This makes our baptism a literal blood bath Because all the benefits of Jesus’ cross pour over our heads in the water And welcome us fully into God’s Kingdom. With Jesus as our only standard, And His Gospel message as our currency, all the buying power an influence comes from the Holy Spirit. We can lavishly and freely pass it out, in our words, ideas, helping, thinking and doing. And no one can steal it or tax us out of it. This is why we can pay to the rulers what is theirs. And give back to God the things that are God’s. Which is all we are. Our love, our thanks, our jobs, our families, everything! As you pay 12 % tax on goods at Food Basics, remember you are in a small way moving along God`s Kingdom on earth. God will always remain the source of our strength and our ability to work and live and raise a family and express our faith. Masks are gone. Worrying over security melts away. You live under grace, expressing trust and hope. One day all Caesars will be fully paid up, When the new heaven and new earth comes to be. Forever under Jesus’ nail scarred feet where all things of God are back with God. Amen.

# Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



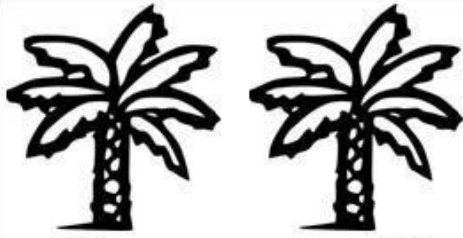
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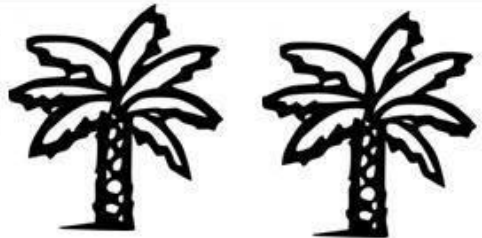
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# Moses



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| Levi      | Lamb         |
| Nile      | Passover     |
| Egypt     | Slavery      |
| Pharaoh   | Exodos       |
| Firstborn | Commandments |
| Desert    | Stick        |
| Midiam    | Blood        |
| Jethro    | Brick        |
| Zipporah  | Covenant     |
| Horeb     | Ebrew        |
| Plague    | Aaron        |
| God       | Sinai        |

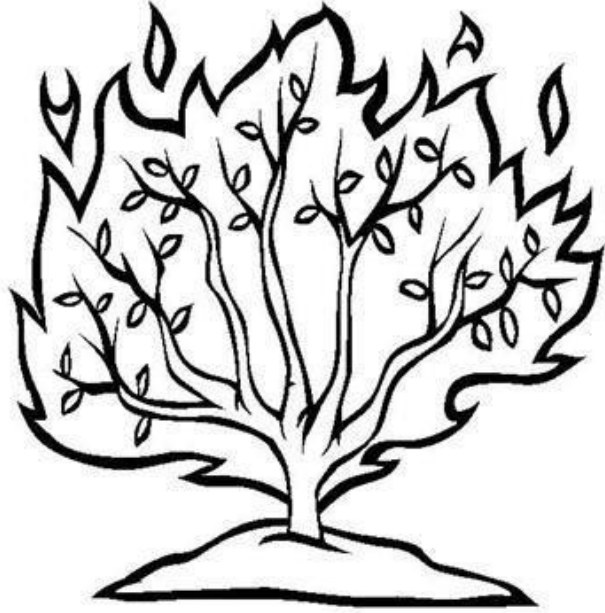


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# A Princess Finds A Basket

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AMRAM  
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MIRIAM  
PHARAOH  
RUSHES

BABY  
DAUGHTER  
FAMILY  
JOCHEBED  
MOSES  
PRINCESS  
SISTER

BASKET  
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NURSES  
RIVER  
SLAVES