

Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 22nd, 2024



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

Phone: 905-685-8294
Church Website: www.christlutheransc.ca

Romans 10:15 - - *How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Todd Hoeffs 289-362-0113 pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Deaconess: Louise Gondosch 905-329-8579 parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Emily Fernando 905-685-8294 business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Bronwyn Goodburn 905-685-8294 secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
CLChurch YouTube channel Christ Lutheran Church-YouTube (*link*)
Pastor Todd's YouTube channel "Gathering the Scattered" (*link*)
Rev. Noel Richard, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES!
We're glad you've joined us for worship!

Please be aware that our Worship Services are ***recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook***. There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. We pray we all remain safe and healthy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING

O God, save us from ourselves, from double standards and divided hearts, and give us light and life in Jesus Christ our Lord. All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Musician – Mayumi Munoz + **Reader** – Gloria Meyer + **Greeter** – Judy Slingerland

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

Monday: Psalm 128 Wed: Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 Friday: Esther 2:1-23
Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 4:9-16 Thurs: Esther 1:1-21 Saturday: Esther 3:1-15

ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

- Monday: 10 – 11 AM Luther Manor Bible Study
1 PM "Sewing Circle"
- Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting
9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments
- Thursday: 10 – 11:30 AM SOUL
7:15 PM Promise Band
- Saturday: 10 A.M. – Outreach BBQ & the Promise Band
- Sunday: 9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour
10 AM – Worship
11 AM – Youth Go-Karting



YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!

***COFFEE & TEA TIME
CHRIST CAFÉ DOWNSTAIRS
SUNDAYS FROM 9 – 9:50 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME.***

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please

contact Judy Mason

September 2024 Worship Schedule



September 29th – Lutheran Catechism Service

A donation has been made to the Nicaragua Mission Fund by Frank and Ivy Parkhouse in memory of Greg Munz.



+ + +



Howard Bogusat and Beth Armitage will be joined in Holy Matrimony today at 3:30 p.m. here at Christ Lutheran Church – Anyone wishing to attend the marriage ceremony is more than welcome.



Flowers have been placed on the altar this morning by Judy Slingerland to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Howard Bogusat and Beth Armitage.

+ + +

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today, we will study God's covenant with Abram in "A sign and a Promise". God reassures Abram of His promise to bless the earth through Abram's offspring. God changes his name from Abram ("exalted father") to Abraham ("father of many nations") and institutes circumcision as the sign of His continued covenant with Abraham. Despite Abraham and Sarah's advanced age, God promises they will have a son of their own.

PRAYER MEETING every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join us in praying for our church, our community and our nation.



PRECIOUS MOMENTS: We invite you to bring your "Precious little one" Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11:00 am. During our time together we play, sing songs about Jesus, read and learn Bible stories, make a special craft and have a snack. This year we are also adding a devotion time for 'Moms.' We meet downstairs in the church nursery. The coffee and tea are always on and you will be greeted with friendly smiles. Feel free to drop in.



Words cannot express the gratitude for the blessings our church family shared with us last Sunday with the generous gifts. We truly appreciate the thoughtfulness and Love that we receive from all of you! Feeling so blessed- Love Brandon, Amy, Arthur, Jacob, David and Baby.

SOUL ministries resumes on **Thursday, September 26th (10-11:30 AM)**. Look forward to seeing all of you again!

LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS



Sunday, October 20th, at 10 AM -LWML-C Sunday

Tuesday, October 22nd at 7 PM – Bazaar planning

Saturday, November 16th at 9 AM – Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday, November 19th at 7 PM – Warm feet for the Street packaging

Tuesday, December 17th at 7 PM – Christmas Pot Luck

Everyone at Christ is welcome to attend.

CLTS – OPENING SERVICE: The opening service for the 49th academic year at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary will take place on **Sunday, September 22nd at 4:00pm**, in the seminary chapel. We invite the church community to join the students, staff, and faculty for this festive occasion. The service will be live-streamed from the CLTS YouTube channel. During the service the seminary will present the Emeritus Crucis award to Rev. Dr Robert Bugbee, pastor of First Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Windsor, Ontario. Pastor Bugbee also served for ten years as President of Lutheran Church–Canada.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY SERMONS: *These highly regarded sermons are broadcast each Sunday morning on 99.5 FM WDCX, Buffalo, at 10:30 A.M. Check the website for participating stations or you can listen any time to a podcast or MP3 or read the text at www.lll.ca.*

They are a worthwhile addition to your regular observance of the Lord's Day and a particularly helpful alternative if you know you will be unable to attend our regular Worship Service at Christ Lutheran Church for any reason. The Lutheran Hour speaker is Rev. D. Michael Zeigler.



SEPTEMBER is the month to renew your Seminary Guild membership. Your \$10.00 helps to support the needs of the students at the Seminary with gift certificates for books in first year, their first clerical collar, a portable communion set when they graduate, pantry items as needed, and so much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting our pastors of the future in this small way. **Please see Gail Julie if you are interested in membership.**

JOURNEY THROUGH DEPRESSION

This is one of the newest Project Connect Booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries. We will have some available this month in our LLL Track Rack at the back of the church. We need to be aware that there are many different types of depression. Some kinds of depression turn out to be the result of a larger health issue that also needs treating, like a thyroid problem. In years gone by, many people felt ashamed about struggling with depression or other mental disorders, and this stopped them from reaching out for help.

The booklet answers questions: ***What Causes Depression? Recovering from Depression. What Can You Do to Help? How is God with Me in My Depression? Spiritual Myths About Depression. Where is God in My Dark Night of the Soul? The Comfort of Jesus Through Suffering!*** The booklet also includes a list of Additional Resources.

You are NOT alone! Whatever pain we are in, whatever is troubling us, Jesus invites us to believe, to know, that we are not alone. **He is with us.** He loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us. He is our Saviour now and for eternity, and He promises to give us rest and refreshment. One of the things people who are depressed feel deeply is that no one loves them, but the most important thing to always remember is that **Jesus loves you**, always and forever. It is Jesus who gives purpose and meaning to our lives.



Last Sunday's Attendance – September 15th, 2024: 101

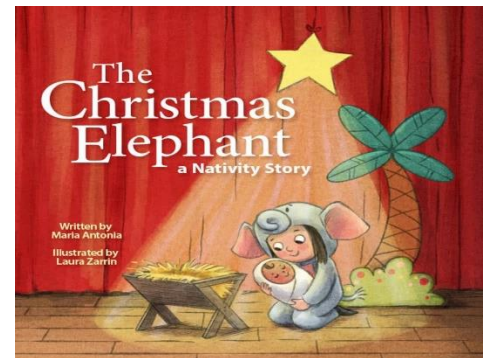
WEEKLY OFFERINGS

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>2024-09-15</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>+/(-)</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	2,149.00	133,891.34	(88,188.70)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	117.00	15,053.86	2,265.40
Property Improvements			29.00	3,797.50	

YOUTH GO-KARTING: We are planning to go Go-Karting today, Sunday, September 22nd. Following the service we will enjoy a pizza lunch together (sponsored by Board of Youth) and then drive to the track in Niagara Falls. (Go-Karts Niagara). There is an online promo 6 laps +3 free + mini putt (\$34). We can purchase and print the tickets off before we leave. Friends are welcome to join in the fun!



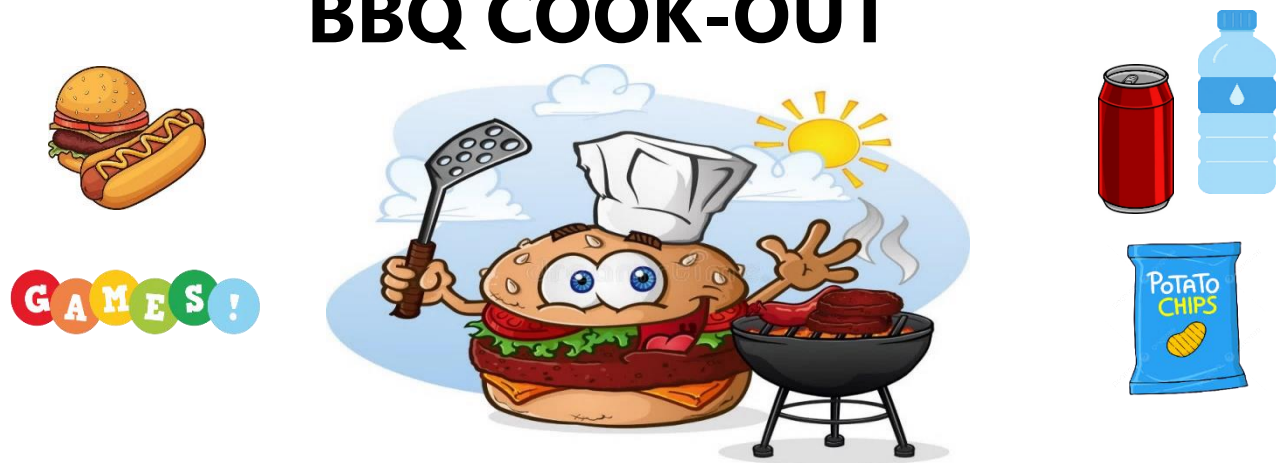
BOOK LAUNCH PARTY! Saturday, October 19th, from 2-4 pm at Heritage Christian Book Store. Join in the excitement of meeting the Author of "**The Christmas Elephant**" a nativity story; Maria Antonia (daughter of Pastor and Jill Munoz). Free activities for kids, elephant cookies and so much more!



THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY FOR THE SEMINARY!!!

As we do each year in thanks to God for His rich blessings to us, we are gathering food, both produce & non-perishable goods to use in our Thanksgiving Display (October 14th). We display these things as a way of focusing our attention on God's abundant blessings to us. We will then donate the food items to the Seminary Pantry, and so we multiply our thanks because of their thankfulness to God for our generosity. ***Please place in the collection bin at the back of the church. Thank you!***

Christ Lutheran Church OUTREACH BBQ COOK-OUT



Outreach is doing a BBQ COOK-OUT on

Saturday, September 28th,

From 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, pop, juice, water,
games and

Live Music with our own "Praise Band"

Outside in **FRONT** of Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Avenue, St. Catharines



***Please note: Pamphlets are available from Lutheran Laymen's
League of Canada.***



PENINSULA PLAYERS
Community Theatre Company
Entertaining Niagara Since 1982

KEN LUDWIG'S
THE GAME'S AFOOT

Directed by Francesca Brugnano

Or Holmes for The Holidays

The Fellowship Committee presents

Peninsula Players

THE GAME'S AFOOT,

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

100 Main St. West, Grimsby

GALA NIGHT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th, 2024

8:00 p.m.

**Tickets \$30 each includes wine and
cheese**

You must order and pay for your tickets
from any Fellowship Member by

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4th

Contact Tim & Elly Reck or Judy Mason

Plot: This play tells the story of Broadway star William Gillette, who has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. The festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, who just happens to think he's Sherlock Holmes, to figure out this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

For we are
God's masterpiece.
He has created us
anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good
things he planned for
us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK HOLY COMMUNION SETTING ONE

The 18th Sunday After Pentecost September
22, 2024 + 10 AM worship

OPENING HYMN "Open, Lovely Doors"



1 O - pen, love - ly doors, and let me come in - to God's
2 With a song I've come to greet you; come to me, dear
3 You de - serve my deep - est rev - 'rence; sanc - ti - fy me

house to - day! This is where great joys be - set me
Lord, I pray. Where you let your peo - ple meet you
through and through. Let my wor - ship in your pres - ence

more than I can sing or say. Here I view God's
heav - en's light is bright as day. Let my heart your
clear - ly show my love for you. Lord of mer - cy,

glo - rious face, see his light, re - ceive his grace.
heav - en be; Sav - ior, make your home in me.
hear my cry: lift my heart to you on high!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1732, arr. by Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963
Tune: Joachim Neander, 1625-1680, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: © 2012 Michael D. Schultz, editor, Northwestern Publishing House
Music: public domain

UNSER HERRSCHER
OF 67 77

PS BGM-101 10211 20 14279

www. Hymnary. Org Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Hymnal © 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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 [**Sung**]

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Keep, we pray, gracious Father, Your Church with Your never-ending mercy; and because without You we could only fall, guard us ever by Your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things good for our salvation. 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.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament : Jeremiah 11: 18-20

The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more. But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: James 3: 13 – 4:10

Who is wise and understanding among you? By their good conduct let them show their works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war

within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel St. Mark 9:30-37

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter:

(Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." This is the Gospel of the Lord. **(Sung) 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.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

GOSPEL SONG "God So Loved [from Live Wheelhouse]"

Words and Music by
Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash
Scott Cash and Andrew Berghold

♩ = 100 VERSE 1
F



1. Come all — you wea - ry, — come all — you thirst - y. — Come to — the well that



nev - er — runs dry. Drink of — the wa - ter, come and thirst no — more. —



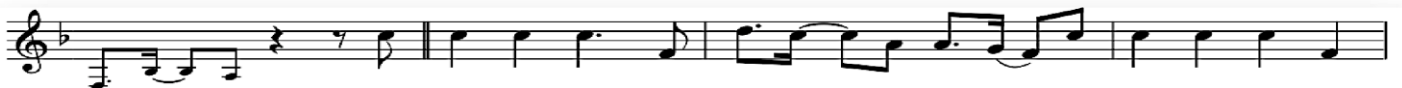
2. Come all — you sin - ners, —



come find — His mer - cy. — Come to — the ta - ble; He will sat - is - fy.



Taste of — His good - ness, find what — you're look - ing — for. —



For God so loved the world that — He gave us — His one and on - ly



Son to save us. Who - ev - er — be - lies in — Him — will live for - ev -

- er. 3. Bring all your fail - ures, -

30

bring your ad - dic - tions. - Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.

33 C^{sus} $B\flat$ F F^{sus} F F^{sus} F

Je - sus is wait - ing there with o - pen arms. -

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and on - ly

40 C $B\flat$

Son to save us. Who - ev - er be - lieves in Him will live for - ev -

- er. The pow'r of hell for -

46 C

- ev - er de - feat - ed. Now it is well, I'm walk - ing in free - dom. For God so loved,

50 $B\flat$ F F^{sus} F F^{sus} F F^{sus} F F F^{sus} F F/A BRIDGE 1a

God so loved the world. - Praise God, praise

God from whom all bless - ings _ flow. _ Praise Him, praise

58 B \flat F C⁽⁴⁾/E F/A

Him for the won - ders of His _ love. _ Praise God, praise

62 B \flat F/C C⁽⁴⁾ F/A

God from whom all bless - ings _ flow. _ Praise Him, praise _

66 B \flat Dm⁷ C^{sus} C

Him for the won - ders of _ His love. _ For

God so loved the world that _ He gave us _ His one and on - ly Son to save. For

⊕ Coda
74 F^{sus} F N.C. **VERSE 4**

4. Bring all _ your fail - ures, _ bring your _ ad - dic - tions. _

Come lay _ them down at _ the foot of _ the cross.

79

Je - sus _ is wait - ing, _ God so loved the world. _

MESSAGE

OFFERING SONG **"Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful"**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all; Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us-- A foretaste of the feast to come.**

BLESSING OF NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHURCH COUNCIL
THE OFFERINGS are gathered & THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who labour, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We pray especially for...[specific petitions offered now...]: let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord. Have mercy.

Blessed Lord God, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Help us so that we may hear, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and reigns with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(LSB Page 161)

(Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult.

The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available.

Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre of the trays.

HOLY COMMUNION AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

As a baptized Christian in the faith:

- 1) I believe in the Scriptural teaching that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament. Jesus Himself says: "Eat My Flesh and drink My Blood and I will raise you up on the Last Day." [John 6]
- 2) I believe that I am worthy to receive the Sacrament as a baptized believer, who admits and confesses sins, receives forgiveness and desires to live a new life in Jesus Christ;
- 3) I believe that by eating and drinking Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine I receive forgiveness of sins, salvation, new life and unity with other brothers and sisters in the faith;
- 4) I believe what is taught by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism: "a person is fully prepared who believes in the words 'given and shed for you for the forgiveness of all sins'."
- 5) Non-members who believe this confession of faith we welcome to join us for Holy Communion
- 6) If you desire Holy Communion, church membership or further information about receiving the Sacrament, please speak with the Pastor or an elder before worship.

COMMUNION HYMNS **"Lord, Help Us Walk!"**

1. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -
 2. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But -
 3. No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4. You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -

ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in -
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And bend - ing low, for -

get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood, In low - li - ness you died.
 fol - low you And live by your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, © 1997, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ST. ANNE, CM; attr. to William Croft, 1678–1727; harm. composite from 18th c. versions §

https://www.saintjosephmsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/26OT_092522_v3a_web.pdf

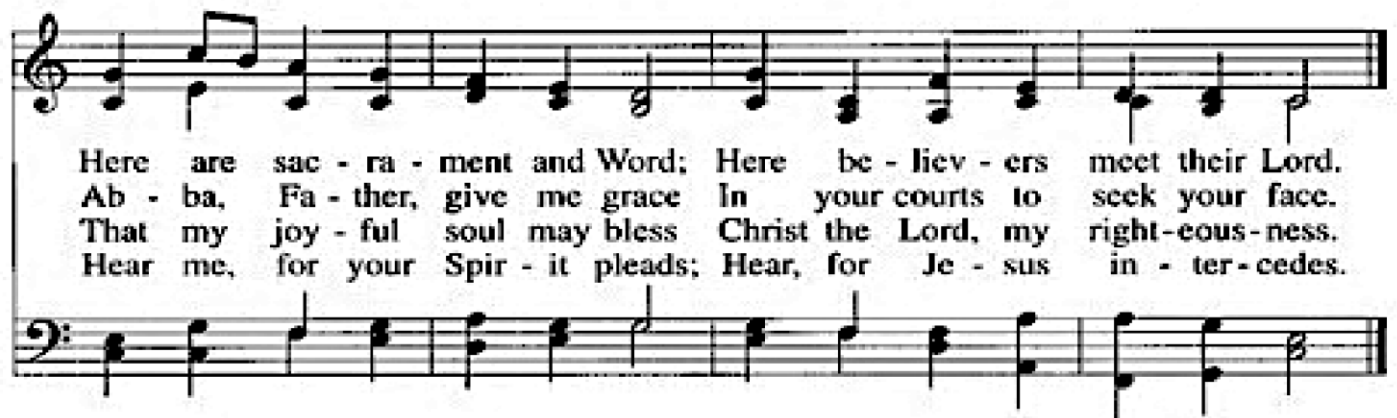
"Jesus Your Blood" [Tune: Puer Nobis]

- 1 **Jesus, your blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.**
- 2 **Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to
pay; For by your cross absolved I am; From sin and guilt, from fear and
shame.**
- 3 **Lord, I believe your precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.**
- 4 **Lord, I believe were sinners more, than sands upon the ocean's shore;
You have for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.**
- 5 **When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then shall be all my plea: Jesus has lived and died for me.**
- 6 **Jesus be worshiped endlessly, Your boundless mercy has for me;
For me and all Your hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.**

"To Your Temple I Draw Near"



1 To your tem - ple I draw near; Lord, I love to wor - ship here.
2 I through Christ am rec - on - ciled; I through Christ be - come your child.
3 While your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my lips, un - loose my tongue,
4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of love, to mine at - tend.



Here are sac - ra - ment and Word; Here be - liev - ers meet their Lord.
Ab - ba, Fa - ther, give me grace In your courts to seek your face.
That my joy - ful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my right - eous - ness.
Hear me, for your Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.

5 While I listen to your law,
Fill my soul with holy awe
Till your gospel brings to me
Life and immortality.

6 While your ministers proclaim
Peace and pardon in your name,
Through their voice, by faith, may I
Hear you speaking from the sky.

7 From your house, when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say,
"I have walked with God today."

Words: James Montgomery, 1812 public domain;

TUNE (GOTT SEI DANK DURCH ALLE WELT 77 77): Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, alt.

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us"

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show
 us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1997, alt.
 MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982
 Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI
 7.7.9 with refrain
 CCLI# 1296903

POST COMMUNION HYMN "Lord, Now You Let"

LSB # 165

**Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace, Your Word has been ful-filled;
 My own yes have seen the salvation,
 which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people,
 A light to reveal You to the nations, and the glory of Your people Israel; Glory be to
 the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now,
 and will be forever, Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 look upon you with favour and + give you peace. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN "I Will Sing Of The Mercies" [sing through twice]

Psalms 89:1 Traditional



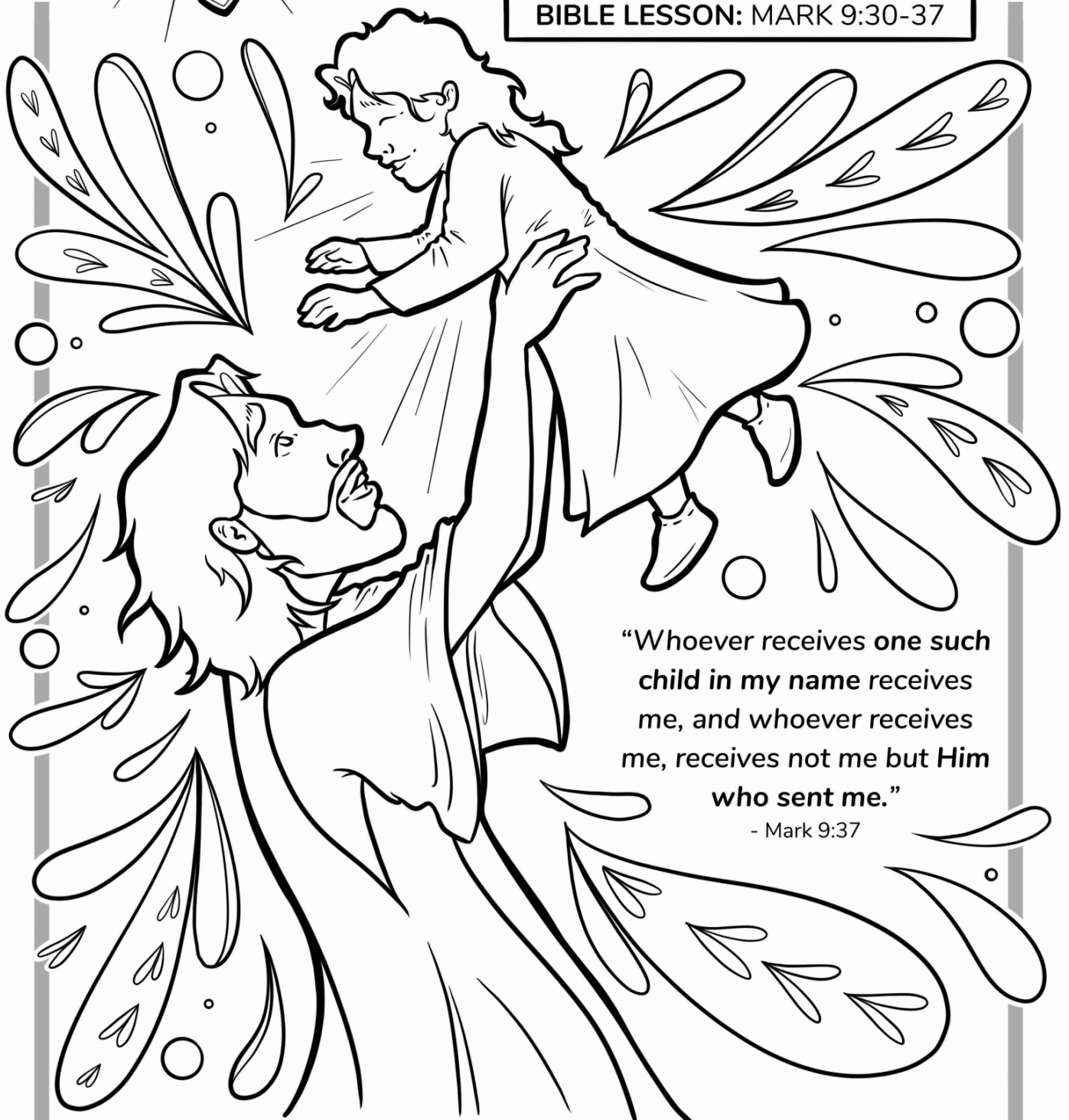
I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will
sing, I will sing, I will sing of the mer - cies of the
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known Thy faith - ful - ness, Thy faith - ful - ness,
With my mouth will I make known Thy faith - ful - ness to all
gen - er - a - tions. I will sing of the mer - cies of the
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BIBLE LESSON: MARK 9:30-37



**“Whoever receives one such
child in my name receives
me, and whoever receives
me, receives not me but Him
who sent me.”**

- Mark 9:37

Who is the Greatest?

L	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T	I	V	T	N
S	N	I	S	H	F	P	N	R	S	N	S	S	M
F	L	N	A	S	E	T	V	S	M	A	G	D	R
E	A	I	G	E	H	H	F	F	E	C	R	T	B
C	D	S	E	R	E	U	S	L	D	S	E	G	T
H	H	T	H	V	L	M	U	D	L	L	A	T	L
Y	I	R	S	I	P	B	C	T	I	T	T	T	K
N	C	Y	R	C	I	L	G	L	H	E	E	S	S
S	C	H	L	E	N	E	C	M	C	U	S	M	T
S	U	E	E	S	G	U	S	A	A	A	T	E	H
U	T	S	M	C	M	L	L	U	P	R	R	M	C
J	A	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	U	Y	K	S	P
B	Y	N	B	J	S	S	T	T	S	R	I	F	N
T	T	N	E	G	T	T	K	N	E	B	I	R	S

HELPING
 MINISTRY
 CHILD
 GREATEST
 JESUS
 LAST
 LEAST
 MARK
 SERVANT
 FIRST
 IMPORTANT
 HUMBLE
 SERVICE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2756213/>

REV. TODD HOEFFS

Pentecost 19 (series B)

Scripture: St. Mark 9:30-37

September 22, 2024

Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh wanted more than anything to be a pastor (in his Dutch Reformed 19th cent. Tradition). He enrolled in the very stoic, traditional seminary. A very poor academic. In his pastoral work his professors accused him of speaking too much Gospel, working too closely with filthy coal miners; his professors wished he remain as they -- high, distant and removed from the people. He refused. Rejected by his teachers, loved by the people he served--- Vincent viewed Christ-centred greatness by serving people in their need no matter where or when; as his seminary saw greatness in austerity and rules. Vincent as we all know diverted his religious passion to artistic, painterly passions.

Well, what about...GREATNESS?

Greatness for many is about being number one, a winner, a success. It's about power, control, wealth, fame, reputation, status, and position. Think about the team who comes this close to winning but lose the Stanley Cup or the Grey Cup or the Superbowl? Or sitting beside any politician the day after they've lost an election? None of these would feel "great" in any cultural, physical way.

And what about serving? It's one thing to help out your family or friends, but being servant of ALL, that's another matter entirely. A servant of all is someone who puts up with a lot, is overworked and underpaid and involved in menial, thankless work. Being the servant of all is not what anyone truly desires. Being last, serving, doesn't quite equate with our thoughts of greatness.

If being great, holding the number one position, then we've completely misunderstood what greatness is really about. And the disciples don't understand greatness any more than we do.

Jesus has a new direction for His mission.

Jesus is coming down off the mountain where He showed His divine glory to three of His disciples – Peter, James, and John. What we call His transfiguration. And now for the first time (after showing them how His body will look when resurrected) He starts talking in very real terms about His death and resurrection. This IS the plan: He's going to be delivered into the hands of men and get killed. And when He's killed, after three days, He'll rise from the dead.

What do Peter, James, and John think of all this? Now that they've seen Jesus' glory and heard His Father's voice, do you think they're picturing greatness with a death?

No.

But this is Jesus' way, God's way, the way to fix the sinful world. The way worldly greatness will be conquered by bending down and helping everyone.

After Jesus comes down from the mountain His disciples argue and fight about WHO is the greatest! Like when parents ask kids a question they already know the answer, the disciples are silent when Jesus asks what they're arguing about. He knows. HE knows their thoughts and feeling.

But this is said for our sake. He wants to reveal their hearts and minds.

They're the future of the church.

Jesus is all about death and resurrection to fix this troubled world.

They must be about this too.

They must not only see greatness in serving, but embrace it, believe it and LIVE it!

Jesus isn't saying we should not or cannot be great.

Rather, He's asking us to reframe our understanding of greatness.

To trust in His way. To rely upon Him and His Word through the inner dwelling of the Holy Spirit and of faith.

Truth be told, we'd rather hear anything but this death and resurrection talk. We don't want a dead and risen Jesus, we want a power Jesus, a Jesus who'll help us do what we want, or fix us quickly, easily, with no expectations. A Jesus Who'll make us successful on our terms. To change the world around us, just not us.

We're geared from birth to think in those terms. Great is good and higher is better. The gold medal is the one we want dangling from our necks, not second place silver or third place bronze. When you win the gold, you stand higher up on the platform, a little higher than your fellow competitor. We admire the winners and think less of the losers, and if God can help us become winners, then that's the kind of God we will follow. Failure is not an option.

We'd like the pain to stop, the stress to melt away, the days to be brighter and our future certain. We want that for our children and grandchildren, too. Have the best opportunities, the best education, the best of everything and they'll turn out great. Or so we suppose, though experience teaches otherwise. It's a competitive world out there. Jobs and careers and choices have changed and will continue changing and choices now may be less than that were even a year ago. We worry, fret, stress.

It's also not wrong to grow weary of pain or stress or want a better day. It's not wrong to want good things for our family. What's wrong is when this ideal becomes our god, becomes our only focus, at the expense of loving the true God and serving

our neighbor because that IS great in God's book. And we who are written into the lamb's book of life from our baptism know and believe that greatness to God means being Christ to the world. Greatness is found not in what we've accomplished and gained for ourselves but in what we have done and given to "the least of these" (Mt. 25:40), the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and imprisoned; like a little CHILD.

This is why Jesus lets a little child in to His circle of disciples. To distract their foolish notions of greatness with a direct image.

A child. Greatness is welcoming a child.

When you receive a child into your midst you are receiving Jesus.

Children were considered the least of society in their day – dependent, helpless, time and energy consuming. You couldn't wait for them to grow up, to become productive members of society, to marry off your daughters and put your sons to work.

Welcoming a child takes time, compassion, listening, patience and allowing for mistakes over and over....kinda like how God puts up with us.

Yet that's precisely where Jesus places Himself in the position of a little child. For in the child Jesus offers you can also see God's child, the Child Saviour born to Mary and Joseph, the child in Bethlehem's manger the teacher and healer and cross-bearer, the Servant who suffers for the salvation of all. For "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Jesus' plan means weakness over power. A cross over glory. A greatness where losing to death toward the world's focus means winning the glory of wiping clean the sinful slate of every person of the world. For in the weakness, in the cross, in the blood, the suffering, the dying, IS glory and greatness. God's glory and greatness. The

greatness of losing one's life in order to win life, real life, a freeing life, a peace-filled life, where sin and death are remedied.

To be baptized is to be a free, peace-filled child of God. Like that little child in the midst of the disciples – utterly helpless, utterly givable to, utterly dependent on God's mercy. To be a child of God, baptized and believing, is to lose your life in order to save it, to become nothing so that Christ can be everything, to die in order to rise, to be joined to Jesus in His death and life. To trust with open hands receiving from our God and helping all who have need.

Greatness never puts ourselves in a position of superiority over another. It's not about me; my nation, my people, my religion, my politics, my bank account, my house, my job, my accomplishments, my reputation, my status. Our greatness is revealed in our service and care of others regardless of her or his ability or willingness to pay, repay, or return the favour.

God in His wisdom pours out His Spirit into our hearts, so that we are salted with fire. Fire which drives our God-inspired passion to continue serving, loving, welcoming, receiving others and in doing so, receiving Christ.

Greatness comes to us when we share with others who have nothing to share in return. Greatness comes when we forgive one who has neither asked for our forgiveness nor changed his or her behavior. Those who refuse to carry bitterness or envy toward another are great. When we respond to the needs of others, when we refuse thoughts and actions of hatred or prejudice then greatness comes. When we

overcome fear, tear down walls, and make room for one who is different, vulnerable, in need, then we are great.

Faith doesn't ask who is the greatest. Faith looks to Jesus on the cross and says, "There. That's greatness. That's what it means to be great."

And through the cross of Jesus, faith looks out into the world and sees Jesus precisely where the world would not look: in the least, the lost, the little, the child. Salted with fire, we have salt within, a burning faith fire, making us faithful in our serving and eager in our welcoming. Amen.
