

Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

Mary Martha LWML Sunday

October 20th, 2024



...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Ephesians 5:18b-20

MAKING MELODY to the Lord

LWML - CANADA SUNDAY 2024



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 christlutheran.stcatharines@gmail.com
Secretary: Bronwyn Goodburn 905-685-8294 secretaryclc.sc@gmail.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
CLChurch YouTube channel Christ Lutheran Church-YouTube (*link*)
Pastor Todd's YouTube channel "Gathering the Scattered" (*link*)
Seminarian Augustine Aylin, 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, heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

Monday: Psalm 75

Wed: Job 41:12-34

Friday: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Tuesday: Job 41:1-11

Thurs: Kings 20:12-19

Saturday: Job 42:7-9

Musician – The Promise Band + **Reader** – Lorraine Kaija

ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

- Monday: 10 – 11 AM Luther Manor Bible Study
1 PM "Sewing Sircle"
7:30 PM Choir Practice
- Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting
9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments
- Wednesday 1 – 2 PM Bible Study "Wednesday in the Word"
- Thursday: 10 – 11:30 AM SOUL
7 PM Women's Bible Study @ the Kuenzel's
- Saturday 5.30 PM Leaving from church for Youth @ Howells
- Sunday: 9 – 9:30 Bible Study (Mark Gospel Readings)
9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour
10 AM – Reformation Sunday Communion

October 2024 Worship Schedule



October 27th – LSB Setting 3 Communion Reformation Day



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



Flowers have been placed on the altar this morning by Frank & Ivy Parkhouse to the glory of God and in celebration of their wedding anniversary and both their birthdays.

NOTE: The Special Resolution - Member's meeting is today, *Sunday, October 20, 2024*, directly after the Sunday Morning Service. The proposed resolution that we are seeking member ratification will be posted at the back of the church on the bulletin board, but is focused on amending our incorporation articles to include levels of membership and to allow for increased numbers of directors.



The account of Esau and Jacob serves as today's lesson, "Twin Troubles". When Isaac is sixty years old, Rebekah gives birth to very different twin boys – Esau and Jacob. Isaac ignores God's promise to Jacob and favours Esau. Esau's hunger gets the best of him as he sells his birthright for a bowl of stew. Rebekah enables further deception as she plots with Jacob, her favoured son, so that he receives Isaac's blessing. When Esau vows to kill Jacob, Rebekah sends Jacob away for his own safety.

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.



LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS

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

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.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR this year will be held on

Saturday, November 16th, 9AM to 2PM.

*****Save the date*---Please note that it is *2 wks. earlier this year*****

Support our efforts to raise funds for various Missions *around the world and* help for our Community.

***Please start spreading the word to help us advertise & plan to attend!

***It's not too early to make items or gifts for the Craft Table.

***Any items you may have for the "Nearly New" Tables may be brought in any time now and placed in the back-room downstairs. Please bring only good quality items (*not* white elephant) in nearly new or gently used condition.

They should be packed in a box or tied bag and placed neatly on the cupboard or shelves that are labeled Bazaar.

***Monetary donations also gratefully accepted (cash or cheques made out to Mary Martha Society)

***More details to follow but if you have any questions, please contact Carole Pink or any of our M.M./LWML ladies.

Last Sunday's Attendance – October 13th, 2024: 77

SOUL 40 & 12 PSW

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

2024-10-13

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>+/(-)</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	2,884.00	145,907.34	(93,705.33)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	248.00	15,817.86	2,019.78
Property Improvements			175.00	4,074.50	



November 23rd, 2024

Yes, it will be one year already on November 23rd that our family: Kareem, Hamida, Ameer, and Asser arrived in Canada.

The Fellowship Committee and your Refugee Committee are planning a first anniversary dinner for our family on that Saturday. Please keep tuned for further details. Everyone is welcome.



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.ill.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.

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Another Project Connect booklet from the Lutheran Hour. It talks about the Bible's answer to these questions: **1. Why do pain and suffering exist? 2. What benefit can possibly come from my troubles? 3. What has God done to deal with the evil and pain in this world?** There are some interesting statements such as: "Pain is God's bullhorn to rouse a deaf world." "God allows trials to come to us so we become refined and more compassionate people. Our problem is that often we do not want to be improved." Jesus was the man who was treated more unfairly than anyone else in history. Jesus Christ is the only God with scars. Romans 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and care called according to His purpose."* If you don't see this booklet in our display rack please ask Pastor John.



Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary is hosting a chapel service and presentation on **Thursday, October 31st, beginning at 10 am**. The Seminary Rare Book Room has recently been gifted a treasure: a small volume containing six captivating original pamphlets produced by Martin Luther between 1520 and 1539. Join us for a presentation by Prof. Kirk Radford called "From the Pen of the Reformer" on these extraordinary pamphlets. Paid parking available on the Brock campus at Lot E. (Accessible parking at the seminary for those who need it.) **The event is FREE, but we do ask that you register by emailing reception@concordia-seminary.ca.**



**CONCORDIA
ROCKS
BONSPIEL**

Saturday Nov. 23, 2024

-\$50 per curler
-Williamsford Community Centre, 112 Salter St., Williamsford, Ontario

-Draws at 8:30 & 10:00
-catered lunch awards at 3:30
-novices welcome
-all proceeds for CLTS Student Aid Fund

Reserve your spot by emailing Carol
carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353

Calling all curlers (and the curling curious)! Register for the first ever **Concordia Rocks Bonspiel. Saturday, November 23, 2024** at the **Williamsford Community Centre** (112 Salter St, Williamsford, Ontario, close to Owen Sound). 2 games, 2 draws, lunch, refreshments, prizes, and a whole pile of fun. Draw 1 @8:30 and Draw 2 @10:00. All proceed to the Student Aid Fund of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Novices are welcome! Registration \$50.00/curler. Limited to the first 32 curlers. For more info visit: www.concordia-seminary.ca. Reserve your spot by emailing Carol at carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353.



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

There are plenty of phish in the sea.

Don't be one of them!

Please be aware there have been e-mails sent out in

Pastor Hoeff's name that are Phising Scams.



Ways to prevent Phising yourself from Phish net:

- Be very careful about not replying to any such spam mails that ask you to confirm or update any information about your account.
- Do not follow any links that come with the spam mails, which will lead you to websites that ask for conformation of your account information.
- Never copy an unknown link from these kinds of spam mails and paste them on your web browsers. These links are made to look very humble by the phishers, but they will actually land you to some scam and fraud sites.
- Be careful about opening or saving any document or attachment that comes with spam mails. Do not trust these kinds of e-mails even if they appear to be sent by some authorized entity.
- Never ever send your confidential information about your account in an e-mail.
- It is better to be protected from these scams by using firewall, anti-spyware and anti-virus software. Make sure to update this software regularly for security of your PC.
- Do not respond to those scam mails, which even seem to offer sound business or ask you to avail a refund. The fraudsters often sent you phone numbers so that you call them up for business purpose. They use Voice over Internet Protocol technology. With this technology, their calls can never be traced.
- The church will NEVER ask for money or gift cards via an e-mail.

BEARS AND BLANKETS



The Bears and Blankets offering to Seniors in long term care and retirement homes has now placed over 600 care kits in over 30 places. We **WELCOME** donations of small to medium sized homey or home-made blankets.

Bears and Blankets for seniors is a 100% volunteer offering. For more info, you can call Jan at 289-990-4839 or email janscats@gmail.com, I may be able to do pickup! For my church friends, while most references to bears in the Bible are not positive, there is this note from the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Galatia – “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” 😊



YOUTH AT HOWELLS: Saturday October 26 - we have planned a trip to Howells. We will carpool from the church at 5:30. Please sign up through the email from Valerie or speak with Louise or Dan. Friends are welcome to join us.



UNBREAKABLE
WITH THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING LCC for youth ages 13 to 18 from July 4 to 8, 2025, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. The theme is **UNBREAKABLE** with the whole Armour of God." The two main speakers are Rev Dr. Robert Bugbee and Jennifer Kerr (a mental and relational health counsellor from Regina. Mark the date. More information will follow.

**CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP at The Watering Can in Vineland
3725 King St., Vineland, ON, L0R 2C0**

**Thursday, NOVEMBER 14, 2024
Doors Open AT 6 p.m.
Workshop Starts Promptly at 6:30 p.m.**



*****TRADITIONAL URN*****

******Become the designer of your own Winter Wonderland Planter******

**SOUL FUNDRAISER
Cost is \$75.00**

Deadline for sign up and payment is Sunday, November 3rd

***Please notify Wendy Shook
if you are interested—905-380-6544***

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)

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

1. Pick 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 \$12.00 cheque.
5. **Drop the box off at the church by Sunday, November 17th, 2024.**



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.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Scripture & Song Service

THE 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Mary-Martha & Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada

October 20, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

GATHERING

BEGINNING SONG *"One Lord For Ev'ry Land"*

1. **"One Lord for ev'ry land, will be our theme for pray'r,
To spread the love of God's own Son, to people e'vrywhere:
One faith, one hope, one Lord for ev'ry land.**

2. **Yes on through long life's way, still hope-filled as we go;
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
One faith, one hope, one Lord for ev'ry land.**

3. **One Lord for ev'ry town and village where we live;
In city, home and neighbourhood, the love of Christ we'll give:
One faith, one hope, one Lord for ev'ry land.**

J. Fritsche, LCC © 1988 & 1995, Central District LWML Tune: Rejoice O Pilgrim Throng [Marion]

WE BEGIN IN GOD'S NAME

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

Amen.

I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the House of the Lord!

Unless the Lord builds the House,

In vain do the builders labour.

Surely the Lord is in this place.

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

You are gracious and merciful, O God,

Slow to anger, rich in love.

Receive our prayers and worship as You have promised

And uphold us by Your Spirit,

Until all things, mended by Your mercy,

Are made whole and well in You,

Through Jesus Christ

Our healer and our hope. Amen.

KYRIE--PRAYING FOR MERCY [*Amazing Grace* tune]

**Have mer-cy on Your people, Lord; Have mer-cy, je-sus Christ;
Have mer-cy on Your peop-le, Lord; Have mer-cy, grant us peace.**

Text: Kyrie text; A. Meade, 1975 © Creative Communications for the Parish
Music: Amazing Grace <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/An-Analysis-of-'-Amazing-Grace'-By-Stever-Thornely-Thornely/d3498a752ca06c27e107c07d837494c05cda12b0>

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

To You, O Lord God,

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

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

Amen.

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

Praise be to God!

HYNM OF PRAISE

"Praise The Lord"

INTRO



The Lord is God and we are His, there is no greater com-fort than
this, so ev'ry sin-gle day that I live, I will pra-ise His Name,
I will pra-ise His Name.

15 VERSE 1



I wor-ship the Lord with all my heart,
be-cause He's been be-side me from the start, And I ex alt the Lord with
all that I am, be-cause He holds me in the palm of His hands.

20 CHORUS



The Lord is God and we are His,
There is no grea-ter com-fort than this, So ev'ry sin-gle day

—that I live,— I will pra-ise His Name,— I will pra-ise His Name.

35 BRIDGE

It is good to praise the Lo-rd and—

38 make mu - sic to His name, to pro-claim His sal-va - tion with

each new day.—

15 VERSE 2

My soul glo-ri-fies—the Lord, And my spi-rit re joi-ces in God my

5 Sa - viour, For He has done great thi - ngs. for me, He for

CHORUS

ga-ve my sins and set me free.— The Lord is God and we

are His,— there is no grea-ter com-fort than this,

So ev'ry sin - gle day—that I live,— I will pra-ise His Name,—

INTERLUDE

I will pra-ise His Name.—

[T Mason, J Gondosch] © 2016

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: God our Father over all nations, we give you thanks and praise for the gift of the Gospel as Your Promise of salvation for all people. We thank You for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada, especially our own Mary-Martha Group. We give thanks for its early work in collecting food and clothing, in raising funds for mission work overseas and in our neighbourhoods. Bless its continuing Christ centred work as care for justice and peace in crises,

disasters and conflicts and may we all shine the Light of Jesus Christ with all partner serving ministries to be aware and meet the needs of peoples worldwide as our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to do and in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament *Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

The person who loves money will never have all the money he wants. The person who loves wealth will not be satisfied when he gets it. This is also useless. The more wealth a person has, the more friends he has to help him spend it. So what does he really gain? He gains nothing except to look at his riches. A man who works hard sleeps in peace. It is not important if he has little or much to eat. But a rich person worries about his wealth. He cannot sleep. I have seen something unfair here on earth: A person suffers harm from saving up his money. Then he loses it all in a bad deal. So he has nothing to give to his son. A person comes into this world with nothing. And when he dies, he leaves with nothing. In spite of all his hard work, he leaves exactly as he came. This, too, is unfair: He leaves exactly as he came. So what does he gain from chasing the wind? All he gets are days filled with sadness and sorrow. He ends up sick, defeated and angry. I have seen what is best for a person to do here on earth. He should eat and drink and enjoy his work. This is because the life God has given him on earth is short. God gives some people the ability to enjoy the wealth and property he gives them. He also gives them the ability to accept their state in life and enjoy their work. Such people do not worry much about how short life is. This is because God keeps them busy with the things they love to do. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Hebrews 4:1-13*

Therefore, while the promise of entering [our Lord's] rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, 'As in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest"', though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.' And again in this place it says, 'They shall not enter my rest.' Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he sets a certain day—'today'—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.' For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs. Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

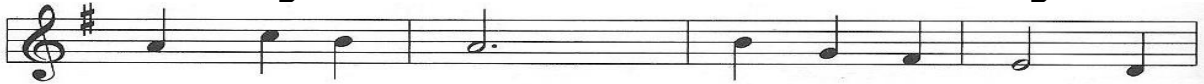
Sung Gospel Verse "Earth & All Stars"



1 Earth and all stars, loud rushing plan-ets



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



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



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

Refrain



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



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

Words: Herbert Brokering, 1926-2012 © 1968 Augsburg Fortress, USA; Music: David Johnson, 1922-1987 457 D & refrain; © 1968 Augsburg Fortress, USA. www.hymnary.org, reprinted with limited worship permission

Holy Gospel St. Mark 10:23-31

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess the faith.

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. 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 LESSON

GOSPEL SONG

"I Just Want To Speak Jesus"

I just want to speak the Name of Je.
I just want to speak the Name of Je.
I just want to speak the Name of Je.

6 Csus C Am7 F2/A Am7

— sus_ o-ver ev_ 'ry heart and ev_ 'ry mind_ 'Cause
— sus_ 'til ev-'ry dark ad-dic_ tion starts to break.. De -
— sus_ o-ver fear_ and all_ an - xi_ e - ty. To

I know there is peace with-in Your pres- ence, I speak Je- sus...
 clar- ing there is hope and there is free- dom, I speak Je-
 ev- 'ry soul held cap- tive by de- pres- sion, I speak Je-

12 C C Csus C G C/E

sus- 'Cause Your Name is pow- er, Your Name is
 sus-

16 F C G C/E

heal- ing, Your Name is life.. Break ev-ry strong- hold, shine through the

1 2
D.S.

VERSE 4a

20 F C C

shad - ows, burn like a fire. Shout Je - sus from the moun - tains,

25 Csus C Am7 F2/A Am7

Je - sus in the streets, Je - sus in the dark - ness o - ver ev - 'ry en - e - my, Je -

27 F2/A Am7 F F2

— 'ry en - e - my, Je - sus for - my fam. 'ly. I speak the ho - ly Name, Je -

30 C C2 C Csus C C

1. 2.

— sus. Shout Shout Je - sus from the moun tains,

34 Csus Gsus/D C/E Am7 F2/A Em/B C

Je - sus in the streets, Je - sus in the dark ness o - ver ev 'ry en - e-my, Je -

37 F C

sus for my fam. ly. I speak the ho ly Name, Je sus. Your Name is

41 G C/E F C Csus C

pow - er, Your Name is heal - ing, Your Name is life. Break ev-ry

45 G C/E F C Csus C

strong - hold, shine through the sha - dows, burn like a fire. Your Name is

49 2. C Cmaj7 C

I just want to speak the Name of Je— sus—

52 Am Am2 Am F

o-ver ev— 'ry heart and ev— 'ry mind... 'Cause I know there is peace with-in— Your pres

55 F2 C

— ence, I speak Je— sus—

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MESSAGE
THE OFFERINGS are gathered.
LWML – Mites Offering

THE PRAYERS

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. May no floods in any form overwhelm us, and let not any deep keep us away from You; Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world; Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Christ has brought us over to the land of promise by the Gospel. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ; Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that every member of the Church may be witnesses of Christ by word and deed, wherever they find themselves. May the Spirit inspire each of us to offer the right word, at the right time and in the right way. Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Body of Christ will continue to shape and encourage all those in witness and life to go forth to new geographical, social and peripheries unconcerned with boundaries to proclaim the all-encompassing Love of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

May local faith communities around the world persevere in the face of war and violence, poverty and persecution. May our prayers and support embrace them in faith and hope. Lord, in Your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

God of healing grace, every day, by the power of your Spirit, we are being transformed into the likeness of your Son. Cure us of all that would impede the Spirit working in us. Heal our illnesses of body, mind and spirit. Comfort all who have lost hope. Be with those who mourn losses of many kinds. Especially we bring before You [names added here:] Open our hearts to reach out beyond our own needs so that what we think, say and do may be reflections of our faith active in love in the world around us. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord Who with the Father and Spirit lives and reigns as one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER FOR THE WORD

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 with the Father and Spirit You rule and reign as one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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

Amen, thanks be to God.

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

Amen, praise be to God.

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

Amen. Glory to our God.

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

Amen.

Official Theme Hymn
Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada

Text: Mark Sallach
 Tune: Mark Sallach

1. Sound-ing forth from heav-en's throne God calls out un - to His own,
 2. Faith- ful to the Fa - ther's will Je - sus died on Cal- vry's hill,
 3. To this world in dark- est night God has brought His Gos- pel light,
 4. Gath-ered in the Sa- viour's name Lu-theran wom-en share this aim:

"Make dis- ci - ples as you go, That the world My love may know."
 Rose a - gain that we might live, Gave us pow'r that we might give.
 Call - ing us whom He has won To pro-claim what He has done.
 Glad- ly serve the Christ, our Lord; Him we praise with one ac - cord.

Refrain

"Called to Serve" the Lord we love, Gift - ed from His hand a - bove,

"Called to Serve," Lord may we be Faith- ful ser - vants all for Thee.

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The
LAST
shall be FIRST,
and the
First
Last

Matt's 2016

The Last Will Be First

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

help others
kindness
sharing
heaven
love

disciples
apostles
prayer
Jesus

catholic
servant
church
serve

REV. TODD HOEFFS

Pentecost 22 Mary-Martha LWML Sunday

Mark 10

"Needles & Pins"

October 20, 2024

Try threading a needle with thick thread in the dark without your glasses.

That's still easier than Jesus' saying today.

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Jesus is cleverly making an extreme, important life-changing point:

What seems impossible to us is totally possible with God.

Camels exist in Jerusalem.

They're large, usually weighted down with lots of merchandise and ancient luggage.

Sewing needles are in many ancient households, made from animal bone.

There are stories all over the world which try to get us to think

The "eye of a needle" is an actual tiny gate into the city of Jerusalem.

So a camel would need to lay down, have all the packs taken off, and he could squeeze in.

While that may exist, it did not in the Jerusalem gate in Jesus' time.

Jesus is using an extreme example of God's ability.

Entry into His Kingdom isn't challenging, it is IMPOSSIBLE without faith in Jesus.

Camel passing through a needle's eye is giving us a vivid extreme image.

No doubt the people listening in on this giggled.

But the 'camel through the eye of a needle' saying is no joke to the rich man.

Jesus brings to light the dark humour of every *poor* man and woman in their society – most rich folks remain rich because (deliberately or not)

they exploit or support a system that makes the poor suffer.

So, if anyone continues to exploit and bring harm on those in need, then those oppressors will not be fit to enter the kingdom of heaven.

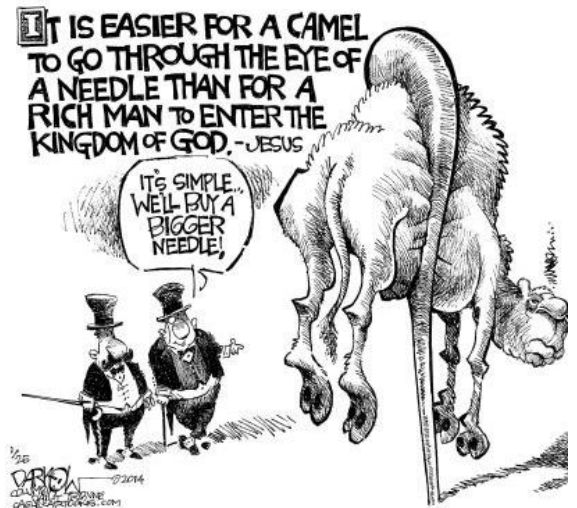
Jesus recites the commands to the rich man and includes a new one:

'You shall not defraud'.

Many poor tenant farmers experience their payments being held back by owners, or their deposits of goods or money not being returned.

Jewish law says if a poor person is taken advantage of by a wealthier person, they can make restitution by reimbursing them.

But this particular rich man wants a God who blesses his lifestyle without requiring him to change it.



The problem with a desire for that
Winds up making God into a divine overseer letting one suffer for this man's benefit.
That is the epitome of selfish sinful privilege.

It's like the times I had to deal with bullies when I was a classroom teacher.
Various methods can be used.

You can use humour to diffuse, ignore some of the behaviour, redirect them,
Correct and explain in various ways.

But once a bully's action infringes upon the safety, learning and existing
of another student -- the bully must be stopped.

Then a bully has to learn to work with others around them to exist.

That rich man wants absolution from any responsibility to the poor.

He wants his consumer driven wishes sanctioned.

The rich man's wealth should bring a spirit of gratitude and generosity,

But it only reeks of favouritism.

As if he's superior.

This is a problem in every culture, within every era, in every human heart and mind.

Even if we don't mean it to, our comfortable living comes at the expense of others --

Our 21st century ease comes at an expense.

Certainly, God is not in the business of making us guilty;

in Scripture *Satan* is the *accuser*,

God brings good news.

This exchange between Jesus and a rich man

might make us question our own earthly goods,

but we shouldn't feel condemned by it,

for this truth of scripture contains good news *for all people regardless of means*.

There's a reason Jesus tells him to sell his stuff and give his money to the poor.

Looking at this guy, Jesus *loves him*.

Now, this is a remarkable statement.

This is the only place in Mark's gospel where Jesus is said to 'love' someone.

Jesus feels deeply for this guy's situation.

A guy who's bought in to a transactional faith, who possess much but is empty within.

Jesus wants him to be a holy helper in this world with Heaven as the ending.

Giving him this warning *is the loving thing to do*.

But how could that be?

It makes no sense to us in our driven, privatised society

where the compulsion to own and consume more and more for ourselves

is just like the compulsion driving the rich man and his culture --

Surely, our own society say--

the loving thing to do is look after *ourselves* and our families first; our wishes, our
wants, me, me, me.

I can still hear a grocery store shopper back in my high school days

speak to a store manager

Who complained about people needing welfare government assistance.

This elderly shopper, a WW2 vet simply said to them in a quiet voice:

"Well, we all gotta eat don't we?"

That leveled the conversation.

We are all the same, all have needs and loved by God.

Survival of the fittest must not bleed into our Christ-centred Gospel generosity.

Jesus sees the consequences of wanting more and more,

and his heart fills with love for a rich man lost,

a man searching for release from all that harms his well-being,

longing for the deepest things which money cannot buy.

Jesus invites the man to turn his back on his alienating lifestyle.

He's guiding him towards another way of being,

in turning from his heart outward towards God

whose love for him will release him from his wealth addiction,

and free him to create new, redeeming relationships with others

who he will no longer view as competitors,

but companions with him on the journey through life.

That's the heart of the matter, where the rich man's heart really is.

Rich, poor & everyone in between, all of us can suffer from greed.

Any thing we trust quicker than we trust God is an idol we must cease to serve.

A camel in the eye of a needle doesn't seem so funny or hard know.

It's no longer weird wonder but a genuine joy.

By and large, Christians are usually sincere and well-intentioned people

until you get to any real issues of ego, control, power, money, pleasure, and security.

Then they tend to be pretty much like everybody else.

We often settle for a lite version of the Gospel,

some fast-food religion, without any deep transformation of the self;

and the result has been the spiritual disaster of 'Christian' countries

overly absorbed with consumer-oriented, proud, warlike, racist, class conscious,

and addictive as everybody else - and often more so, I'm afraid.

In this way we as the church can be too much like the world.

We've been told at times accepting people from the world as they are in here

to receive the Gospel of renewal and the Holy Spirit --

IS acting like the world;

It's not.

All are welcome into the Lord's present. ALL, not some, all.

It's when we seek special treatment or become overly concerned with our self

or hang onto old grudges or choose to overlook certain peoples' wrongs

because we like them --

THAT IS acting like the world.

That's the pecking order of most jobs. That's not the way of the church.

The alternative way Jesus gives the rich man he hands us.

Love God and love our neighbours.

Christianity is not a religion that gives some people a ticket to heaven and makes them judgmental of all others.

Rather, it's a call to a relationship that changes all our other relationships.

A new relationship with God brings us into a new relationship with our neighbour.

Especially with the most vulnerable of this world, and even with our perceived enemies.

In loving the rich man, Jesus invites him to love his neighbour,

knowing that in so doing *both* will find life in all of its grace-filled beauty.

God's call is the foundation for re-establishing and reclaiming the way of Christ.

Seems like such an impossible task in our times.

That's what the disciples say to Jesus too.

"Then who can be saved?"

But Jesus just looks lovingly at them and says,

'For humans it's impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

For this reason, Jesus comes.

His virgin birth in a dirty manger seems impossible.

His taking up the cross talk and following seems impossible.

His putting up with nasty religious leaders and letting them speak evil seems an impossible act to follow.

From cheers to jeers, from following to forsaking,

With God NOTHING is impossible.

This is why the cross is God's glory.

His dead son nailed onto torturous wooden beams makes all things possible.

What we mean for sin Jesus brings out for the good.

Our Lord Who is rich empties His coffers with blood payment making us both poor and rich.

Poor to our sinful self which dries up and rich to our grace filled forgiven self.

None of us have been hurt because of our faith to the point of shedding blood.

No one has given up more than Jesus,

The One who can lay down His life and pick it back up again.

Because of Jesus' righteousness and grace,

All of us will receive a hundredfold now in this age—

Good and bad. Easy and Difficult. Laughter and tears.

Blessing and persecution.

It's not impossible.

Nothing with God is impossible.

We become possibilities. God's possibilities.

Growing and learning and coping and overcoming and loving.

Even eternal life at the end of it all.

Where we'll see many camels riding through the eyes of needles.

Amen.