

Old Testament Reading:
Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

- 6 Seek the LORD and live,
lest he break out like fire in the
house of Joseph,
and it devour, with none to quench
it for Bethel,
- 7 O you who turn justice to wormwood
and cast down righteousness to
the earth! . . .
- 10 They hate him who reproves in
the gate,
and they abhor him who speaks
the truth.
- 11 Therefore because you trample on
the poor
and you exact taxes of grain
from him,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not dwell in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
- 12 For I know how many are your
transgressions
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who
take a bribe,
and turn aside the needy in
the gate.
- 13 Therefore he who is prudent will keep
silent in such a time,
for it is an evil time.
- 14 Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will
be with you,
as you have said.
- 15 Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God
of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant
of Joseph.

Epistle: Hebrews 3:12–19

¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in
the rebellion.”

¹⁶For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:17–22

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.



**But exhort one another every day,
as long as it is called “today,”
that none of you may be hardened
by the deceitfulness of sin**

Hebrews 3:13



About the Cover: The members of the Body of Christ are called to daily build up one another in the Word of the Lord. The “deceitfulness of sin” would seek to lead us to a hardened denial of our need for forgiveness. Even through correction and reproof, the Lord uses the Christian Church to lead us to the truth of Christ’s forgiveness. He is “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
815-989-2025

October 13, 2024 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 260)

LWML HYMN

1. Lutheran Women, one and all,
 We have heard the Gospel call.
 We by faith have seen our Lord
 Crucified and then restored.
 We have seen Him pay the price,
 For our sins a sacrifice.
 Him we Lord and Christ acclaim
 And unite to praise His name.
2. Lutheran Women, one and all,
 Well we know His challenge bold:
 Help to take the Gospel light
 To a world in darkest night,
 By example in the home,
 By inviting those who roam,
 By your prayers for sinners lost,
 By your gifts for missions' cost.
3. Lutheran Women, coast to coast,
 In the Lord a mighty host,
 Let us all united be
 In the Holy Trinity.
 One in faith, in hope, in love,
 Working for the Lord above,
 Till our earthly labors done.
 We in heaven shall all be one.

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 263)

Catechism (p. 264)

Ten Commandments
The Apostles' Creed
Lord's Prayer

Augsburg Confession Chief Articles of Faith

Article IV Justification

Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4).

Sermon

Office Hymn 694 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayer concludes:

P ... one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day (p. 265)

P Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

Morning Prayer (p. 266)

Blessing (p. 267)

Hymn to Depart 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Silent Prayer

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Almighty God, heavenly Father, who has adopted us to be sons and daughters of Your household through Your Son and our Brother Jesus, the Christ, open to us opportunities of service that we may show our love and gratitude and through which we can minister to each other and also to those who are outside the household of faith against the time of their adoption; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—9 Adult Bible Class—7 Worship—49

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$4,050.00
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship—LWML Sunday
Tuesday	1:00 pm	LWML meeting
	6:30 pm	Men's Bible class
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

HEBREWS 3:18-19 – "And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief." Unbelief leads to disobedience — that is, every sin expresses the opposite of faith. True and living faith guides us into the Lord's way and the Lord's plan. And when we fall into sin, it's because we are not trusting the Lord's goodness and provision.

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given in in thanks and praise to our loving Heavenly Father celebrating the LWML and mission work they do.

SPECIAL COLLECTION—For the **next 3 Sundays** you have the opportunity to help those affected by the hurricanes in Florida. Please put your gifts in the offering plate on the table in the center of the Narthex. Please make checks out to 'St. John's Lutheran Church' with the word hurricane in the memo.

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET is available for you to preview. They are on the table under the Office window. If you take a copy, **PLEASE BRING IN WITH YOU** to the Voters' meeting Sunday, October 27th, which will be held after the worship service.

OCTOBER COUNCIL minutes have been sent out. Printed copies (and finance reports) are available on the counter under the first set of mailboxes.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGE—The church phone number is changed. Please make a note of this change. **The new church number is: 815-989-2025.** This will connect you to either the church office or Pastor's office.

CHRISTIAN LIVING—**Mark 10:17-22:** There are so many things in this

earthly life that can lead us away from Jesus as our Lord and Savior. One of the biggest things that can lead us astray is earthly wealth. The problem is that earthly wealth can never satisfy a hungry soul. We who have experienced the real meaning of life in Jesus have something much more valuable than earthly wealth to share with people who have hungry souls—the love of Jesus Christ.

ALL SAINTS DAY - We will again be displaying the crosses for our loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant on All Saints' Day. If you have a 'name' you wish included this year, please add it to the listing on the table outside the coat room.

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>. **(Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing!)**

ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

MISSION—*Than God for the Baptism of Jesus,* that He took on our sins to suffer in our stead.

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs Matthew Gehn—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Matthew, Michaela, Paisly, Carter, and Beau asking Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw
Betty Firch	Arlyn Helke	Jessica Johnson
Lynne Johnson	Linda Lundquist	Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Wildermuth	Marilyn Woods
Dawn Daebelliehn		

Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family (Adopted Seminarian)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Shandel Loenser

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)

Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)

Gary Kilstom (friend of Brad Gehn)

Kenneth Cullison (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy Davila (daughter of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“To God, all life is sacred because He created it. With their faith, the great multitude will stand before the Lamb on Judgment Day, just as we will. So, to us who follow Jesus, we must continue to uphold the sanctity of life for each person, no matter the nation, language, or their political stance.” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

GENESEO INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM invites you to participate in the Thanksgiving program November 27—December 1. Willing hosts will invite international college students into their homes for the Thanksgiving holiday. The guest will arrive in Geneseo by bus approximately 3:45 on Wednesday, November 27. They depart from Geneseo at 2 pm December 1. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Christ to a stranger. For more details, contact the church office ASAP. Application deadline is November 11.

READY TO serve



"Ready to Serve," Luke 1:38

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and the chance to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord leading Him to share that her copper coins, her mites, were "everything--all she had to live on" (*Mark 12:43*). May our mite offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom.

Thanks to all of you men and women in the congregation who keep a Mite Box and empty it into the large Mite box in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to join us in celebrating the joy of gladly serving the Lord and would like a Mite box to keep at home, pick one up by the large LWML Mite box in the Fellowship Hall. You can deposit your gifts in the box at any time.

The women of the LWML praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people from all walks of life throughout our community and the world through our Mission Grants. The listing of the national grants chosen to be funded by our mites during the 2023-2025 Biennium are listed on the reverse of this insert.

2023–2025 National Mission Grants

1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center	\$100,000
2. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND	\$100,000
3. Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI	\$100,000
4. Lutheran Braille Workers	\$100,000
5. Disaster Response,— Trinity Lutheran , Tyler, TX	\$50,000
6. Mobile Kitchen — Forged by Fire Services, U.S.	\$85,000
7. Mental Health Outreach — LCMS Life Ministry	\$96,500
8. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	\$100,000
9. LCMS Youth Ministry	\$50,000
10. LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$100,000
11. Ministry in Mission, Haiti	\$85,000
12. Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA	\$35,000
13. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya	\$80,000
14. Deaf Ministry, Ephphatha Mission Society, U.S.	\$47,000
15. Feeding Haitian Children— Trinity HOPE	\$58,082
16. Kenyan Street Children — Capstone Ministries	\$50,000
17. Faith for the Aging — Lutheran Ministries Media	\$100,000
18. Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO	\$75,000
19. Tanzania Children's Homes, Tanzania, Africa	\$74,500
20. Kazakhstan Women and Children, LHMinistries	\$100,000
21. Healthy Workers/Church, Luth. Family Services	\$106,000
22. Outreach to Hispanics — L Hour Ministries	\$100,000
23. Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S.	\$100,000
24. Cent. and S. American Missions, LHFoundation	\$100,000
25. India Bible Translation Project	\$100,000
26. Lutherans for Life	\$70,000
27. Hope Lutheran Hispanic Ministry — Sioux City, NE	\$50,000
28. Special Needs Students, After School Care, Inc., NE	20,000
29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School , Cullman, AL	\$50,000
30. Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA	\$100,000
31. Camp Restore Detroit, MI	\$58,988

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

Text: Mark 10:17-22 (Gospel Reading)

Other Texts: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 (Old Testament Reading); Hebrews 3:12-19 (Epistle)

“What Makes a Real Disciple?”

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

One of the things that can make witnessing to others so frustrating, yes, seemingly impossible, is when they have zero interest in their eternal destiny. Some already have their answers (albeit wrong ones). Others consider it unimportant to focus on such things, thinking that to be escapism from the world and a refusal to deal with life’s problems. Others still just deny that there is an eternity at all, believing that this life is all that there is and when you die you cease to exist except as a memory. How different than is the man in today’s Gospel reading.

As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and asked him,
“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

This man did not deny eternity. Nor did he treat it as a minor matter, something that could be ignored while he focused on “real life.” And far from that person who would want to escape from a rotten earthly life, this man was both rich and, as St. Luke records, a ruler amongst the people. On top of all this, he was not one of those who finally got concerned over his eternal destiny because he’s getting old and death is nearing, for St. Matthew records that he was *young*. Quite the opposite of most people then and now, this man believed in the next life and, recognizing that all people do not go to heaven, he was concerned to be going to the right place.

Think about this man’s credentials: young, rich, socially well-placed, morally upright, *and* deeply concerned about his soul and salvation, even to the point of looking to *Jesus* for his answers. Today, we would see him as a great new member, a good and sincere man who would be active in the congregation *and* able to put a decent envelope in the plate. A man whose social position could well bring more growth for the church down the road as well as other possible tangible benefits, like likely to be having kids. Certainly such a man is the answer to a congregation’s prayers for growth, right? One would think so. Yet Jesus is *not* one of them.

Far from unconditionally bringing this man into the group of disciples with open arms, Jesus puts him through “adult confirmation” if you will. He does this because He knows, and therefore, His Church *should* know, that neither youth nor the potential for increased volunteering and offerings is enough to make a *real* disciple. He does this because He knows, and therefore, His Church *should* know, that a moral life and sincerity, no matter how genuine, is not enough to make a *real* disciple.

Of course this does not mean that a young person or couple does not bring blessings to a congregation. Again, this does not mean that a member who is both active and generous is not helpful and desirable. And certainly, this does not mean that a moral life and sincerity are not important, for they are *necessary* for a member of a Christian congregation. All of these *are* true. But it remains equally true that such things, in and of themselves, *do not yet make a real disciple*.

Remember last week's Gospel. Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." To receive like a little child does not mean that one is not to think. More, it does not mean being innocent, much less sinless, since children are conceived and born in sin and so are not righteous before God. The point is that a little child is completely dependent upon others and their works, if any, are only accepted out of love by others as they are not very impressive of themselves. But this man does not come as a child, "Good Teacher, what must *I do* to inherit eternal life?"

As sincere as this man is, his own words betray him. Consider his address to Jesus. Yes, he desperately wanted to come to Jesus, even running up to Him. Yes, he was humble before Him, proven by both his respectful speech and kneeling. But the title "Good Teacher" proves that this man, while sincere, *sincerely* thought that Jesus was only a good religious teacher, a spiritual guru who knows the certain path to heaven, and so he sincerely hoped Jesus would share that "nugget of spiritual truth" with him. "Good Teacher," that is, an enlightened man, but *just* a man. And so, as mentioned, his sincerity is not enough. So Jesus replies accordingly.

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" "

By these words, Jesus does not say that He is not good, that He is not God, or that it is a person's obedience to the commandments which gives eternal life. No. The man approaches Jesus as a mere teacher, asking Him about the Law, what he must *do*, therefore Jesus responds as a teacher of the Law. Before giving specific examples, He begins with the Law's foundation, that God alone is good. This is no mere statement of praise, but begins His instruction of the man. It makes the point that there is no goodness *outside of God*. Consequently, the man should not think that he or his obedience is truly good. To prove that point, Jesus points the man to the second table of the Commandments, the one's dealing with love *for the neighbor*.

Why Jesus does this soon becomes apparent. The man, well instructed by the Pharisees who preached at the synagogue where he was a ruler, believed himself to already be fulfilling the commandments, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." While the words seem arrogant, they were likely not said in such a way. No doubt the man *sincerely* believed that he had done such. Yet, of he had, why did he still question his salvation? The answer is simple. Because God's Law is as good as God is. And so, even as he

believed he had been obeying it, he still is left in doubt. That is the way of the Law, “Have I actually done enough?” And Jesus shows him the deep reality that he has not. “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Jesus is not saying that having wealth is sinful of itself nor that in all cases it must all be given away. He certainly is not giving some sort of “evangelical counsel” that is a higher level of holiness. Yet truly there are dangers inherent in having wealth, as St. Paul writes, “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” For example, the evil of calling one’s wealth “Mine!” and so not willingly sharing it with the neighbor in need. “Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

Was Jesus unloving to this seemingly sincere seeker? Not at all! The text states that “Jesus, looking at him, loved him.” Truly this man lived an outwardly noble life. But the Good Teacher let the good God’s good Law come crashing down on Him. He showed the man where his heart’s loyalties really were. Yes, he cared about God and his salvation, but he cared about his money and possessions *more*. Thus, when push came to shove, it was not God, *but his wealth* that he loved and trusted in the most, and which he feared losing most.

Yes, Jesus knew this man’s heart. He knew that it had an idol and that his torn loyalties were ultimately leading him away from the living God. And so He laid the man’s idol bare before his eyes. Jesus showed him that his supposed keeping of the commandments was just that, *supposed*. He was a “real legend in his own mind” only. And so the man who came running to Jesus in expectation for the answer to what he must do to receive eternal life gets his answer. But the answer showed him that, despite his seeming many good works and apparent keeping of the commandments, *he wasn’t even close to eternal life*.

Jesus knew the spiritual pride of this man had to be destroyed, his confidence in his obedience not merely shaken, but completely shattered. For only then would he quit asking the question that originates in the pit of hell, “What must *I do*?” Only then would he begin asking the right question, “*Who* can save me?”

My friends, this man’s sin of greed, his love for his wealth, could be forgiven if they were recognized and confessed as such *and* He turned to Jesus, not as a Good Teacher, but as the one who alone is God in human flesh and blood, who would pay for His sins on the cross. But as long as he trusted in himself, as long as he thought of himself as good, at least good enough, than he would *never* be good in God’s eyes and *never* inherit eternal life.

Fellow believers, the Good Teacher’s message has not changed. You cannot save you. You are not good enough. Our obedience to the commandments is never sincere enough. No one, not Moses, not Paul, not your loved ones, not you, not me, are good enough that heaven will have to be opened for us when we die. We may want to think so, but then we

hear that nagging voice inside, “Have I done enough?” And the perfect Law still thunders, “No, not even close!”

Just as Jesus knew the young ruler’s heart, so he knows ours. What is in our heart that we will not part with and so is our idol? For the man it was his possessions, what is it for us? Spouse, child(ren), property, job, activities? Dear Christian, do some serious soul-searching that you know your idol(s), so that should your Lord call you to give it up, you would not walk away from Him disheartened, and so lose eternal life, but instead faithfully obey His call.

And so we find that the *real* disciple is the one who knows their sins and sinfulness, and then *sincerely repents* of them. This repentance searches the heart for idols and then, in the power of the Holy Spirit, severs the cords that tie them to the heart, smashing them to pieces, so that they no longer interfere with our obedience, no longer lead us away from the living God. Instead, we turn to Jesus, the Good Teacher, who teaches us that He is the living God who has fulfilled God’s Law for us and has died for our sins. Trusting in Him we are forgiven, covered with Christ’s perfection, enabled to obey His will, and certain that we *will* inherit eternal life.

God continue to make us such real disciples of Jesus. Amen!

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23B)
13 October 2024**

Presentation of the Offering

Father in heaven, bless this offering that we bring. Prosper its work in Your kingdom to provide the Gospel of grace and godly charity to others. May it be generously and cheerfully given. Let the example of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, in addition to the many other blessings of body and soul You so graciously give to us, teach and encourage unselfish love and humble service in our Christian lives and vocations. In the holy and precious name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with compassion on Your Church. Protect Your children from an evil, unbelieving heart that would lead us away from You into the deceitfulness of sin. By Your Spirit's power, enable us to hold our original confidence firm to the end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, God of hosts, keep us from hating those You send to reprove us with Your law. Do not let us abhor those who speak Your truth to us, that we might repent and live. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son warns us against the danger of trusting in wealth and earthly goods. Give us hearts that are content with His promises and hands that are generous with our worldly possessions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we thank You for the many blessings You have showered upon the LWML over the years, thereby permitting them to be blessings to others. We ask You to first bless these Christian women, increasing their faith, hope and love by Your Word and Spirit, and then bless their ongoing works of service and the collecting of mites that they may continue to faithfully encourage and support the sharing of the Gospel near and far even as they bring helping hands of love and mercy to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in kindness remember the president of our country, our Congress and justices, and all who bear office in this land. Protect them from the temptations of power and wealth that would lead them away from their calling. Make their service a blessing to our land and its people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Sovereign Creator whose chariot is the very clouds of heaven, be with all who have been affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Comfort those who mourn the loss of loved ones and all who have lost home, property or employment. Send forth and protect all who seek to bring relief and care to devastated lives, broken hearts, and injured

bodies. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, have pity on Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Carol, Don, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, Marilyn and all Your servants afflicted in body or soul. Satisfy them with Your steadfast love in Christ, and grant health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, remember Matthew, Michaela, Paisly, Carter, and Beau (Bō) Gehn. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to You, O Lord, for the faithful of every time and place who heard Your Word and held their confidence firm to the end. Keep us steadfast in the faith, that we may have our share with them in the eternal inheritance that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for the Word