

# The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

## October 17, 2021

**God Himself Is Present** Lutheran Service Book 907, Lutheran Worship 206, The Lutheran Hymnal 4



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him  
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;  
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His  
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
Trust-ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in  
ho - ly!" Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and  
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease-less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne  
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:  
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!  
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.  
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:  
**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.  
*(Luke 18:13)*

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 34:1–4, 17; antiphon Psalm 34:18

**L** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.  
**C** I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
**L** My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
**C** Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!  
**L** I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
**C** When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.  
**C** 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.  
**L** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

### Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

### Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

**L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
**C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.  
**L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:  
**C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
**L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.  
**C** 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.

## Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

<sup>10</sup>He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. <sup>11</sup>When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? <sup>12</sup>Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

<sup>13</sup>There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, <sup>14</sup>and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. <sup>15</sup>As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup>This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? <sup>17</sup>Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

<sup>18</sup>Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. <sup>19</sup>Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. <sup>20</sup>For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

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

## Gradual Psalm 91:11; 103:1

- L** He will command his angels concerning you
- C** to guard you in all your ways.
- L** Bless the Lord, O my soul,
- C** and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

## Psalms 119:9–16

- L** <sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!**
- L** <sup>11</sup>I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!**
- L** <sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare all the just decrees of your mouth.
- C** <sup>14</sup>**In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**
- L** <sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
- C** <sup>16</sup>**I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

## Hebrews 4:1–16

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest,’”

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” <sup>5</sup>And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup>Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup>So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup>for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup>Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

### Mark 10:23–31

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup>And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” <sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

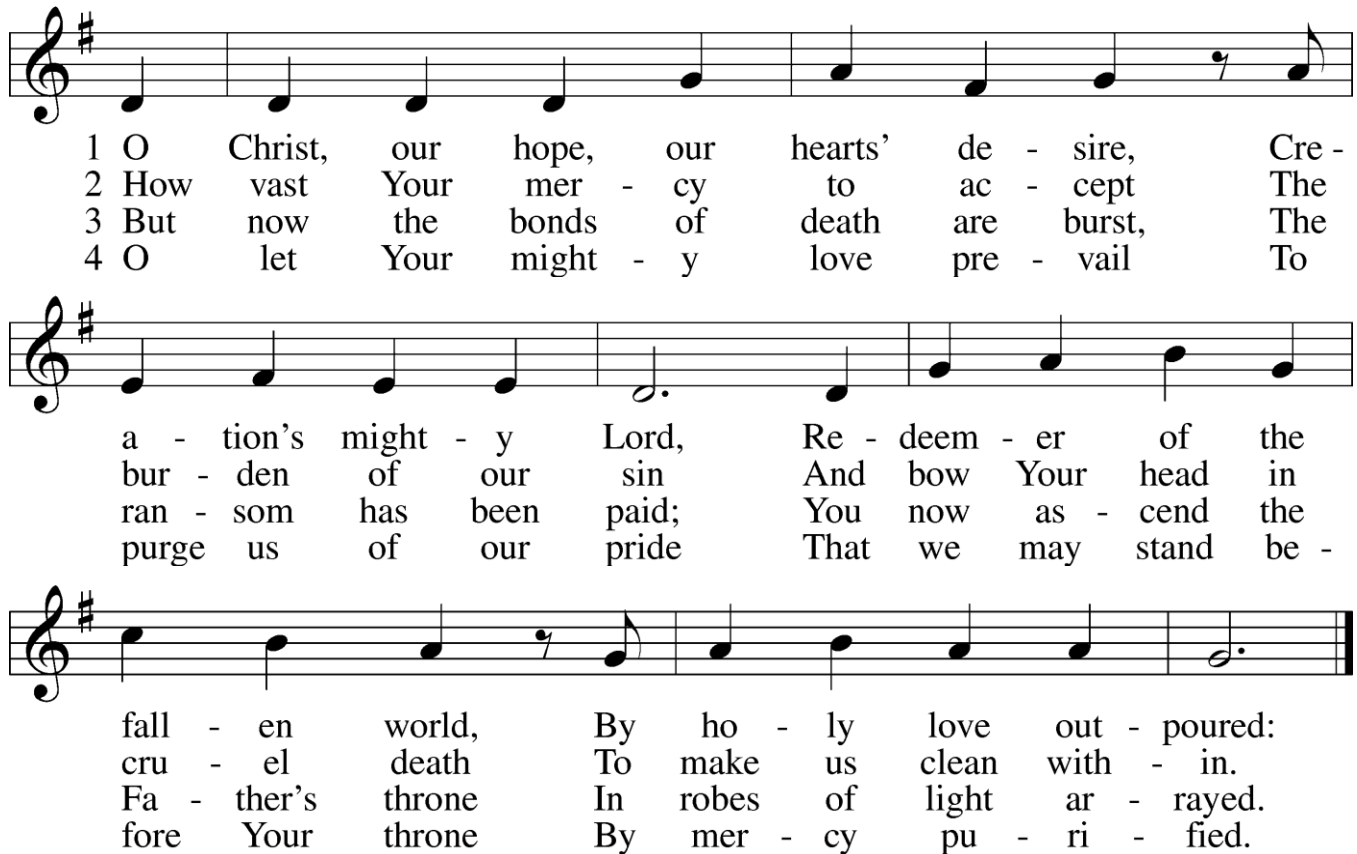
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

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.

**O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire** Lutheran Service Book 553, Lutheran Worship 151, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -  
2 How vast Your mer - cy to ac - cept The  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The  
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To

a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the  
bur - den of our sin And bow Your head in  
ran - som has been paid; You now as - cend the  
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -

fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:  
cru - el death To make us clean with - in.  
Fa - ther's throne In robes of light ar - rayed.  
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory, may it be  
To glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;  
All glory ever be  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Through all eternity!

## Devotional Thoughts:

Today, we continue with the account of the Rich Young Man, Part 2. It includes this well-known quote from Jesus concerning wealth, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Have you ever seen a camel? Camels can be more than six feet tall and weigh more than 1000 lbs! (For my metric friends that's 1.8 meters and 454 kilograms ;-). How about needles? We've all seen needles. Threading a needle is one of the great challenges of life. I can't imagine how a camel could ever fit through the eye of a needle! The disciples couldn't imagine it either. Mark reports that they were “exceedingly astonished.”

I would be “exceedingly astonished,” too. Although I might have said, “surprised,” “bowled over,” “shocked,” or “amazed.” Did I just hear what I think I heard Jesus say? Did He say that it's more likely that you will be able to shove a camel through the eye of a needle than a rich person can make it into heaven?

It sounds like Jesus just said that it's impossible for rich people to be saved! Many people don't want to hear Jesus say that so they explain away Jesus' words with rationalizations such as these. “Jesus is just using hyperbole to make a point.” Or “In ancient times, there must have been a low gateway into Jerusalem called the Eye of a Needle and it was difficult for camels to enter that way.” But both of these explanations miss the mark.

Jesus said exactly what you heard Him say and the disciples knew it. That's why they asked, “Then who can be saved?” If rich people can't be saved, then none of us have a chance!

It was a common belief that the wealthy were especially blessed by God. They were at the top of the social structure. They set the standards for society. While the wealthy in the pagan world were often noted for their immorality, in the culture of Judea and Galilee, they were rulers in the synagogues and temple officials. If the most blessed people on earth can't get into heaven, then what hope is there for the rest of us?

Jesus confirms the conclusion of the disciples when He answers their question, “Then who can be saved?” He says, “With man it is impossible!” Just as it is impossible to push a camel through the eye of a needle, it is impossible for people to be saved!

From the time we are children, our world is dominated by the “stick and carrot” approach. Punishment and reward guide what we do. Parents use this approach in raising children. The government controls its citizens the same way. I have to admit that I would like to drive faster than the speed limit but I avoid it because I don't want to pay a fine. We are encouraged to make spending decisions based on tax breaks. So it is no wonder that people conclude salvation and entrance into heaven must work the same way. But it doesn't.

There is no way for rich people to enter heaven. There is no way for us to enter heaven on our own. “With man it is impossible!” That's why Jesus came to be our Savior. He came to make the impossible possible. “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

You and I can never be holy enough for heaven. We simply don't obey God's law. We don't even obey our parents and government! But Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly for us. He did what is impossible for us to do.

Yet, despite His perfection, Jesus suffered the penalty of sin. He was forsaken by God and died on the cross in our place so that the kingdom of heaven would be opened to us and all believers.

Now rich and poor can be saved. Young and old can be saved. “Good” and bad people can be saved.

The rich young man began his encounter with Jesus by asking, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus' conversation with this man and the disciples is designed to make this one point: When it comes to “doing” there is nothing you can do to inherit eternal life. It is impossible for you to “do” something to buy heaven. That's why Jesus came. If it were possible to buy heaven, then it wouldn't have been necessary for Jesus to come and die on the cross.

So how can we be saved? The Bible answers this question many times. But maybe the clearest answer is given by Jesus Himself in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Simply believe! There is no “doing.”

So the next question on your mind might be, “Then why do good things?” Our sinful nature is always looking for a loophole to sin. Actually, when we come to faith, we are changed. We don't do good things because we have to. We do them because we want to.

Every parent knows the joy of being loved by a child. No one forces a child to love a mother or father. It's just who they are. So also for us who have been adopted into the family of God. God doesn't force us to love and obey Him. That's simply who we have become. Oh, yes, we sometimes still slip and sin out of our human

weakness. But that's not who we are. We quickly repent of our transgressions and receive the forgiveness won for us on the cross. With forgiveness comes life and salvation.

Who can be saved? Not the self-righteous but the redeemed and forgiven who have trusted in Jesus! Who can be saved? "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

**L** O God, with us, salvation is impossible, but with You all things are possible. Give us boldness to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose death and resurrection the way to Your kingdom has been opened.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, spare us from the love of wealth that we would gladly pursue godliness in all we do.

**C** Amen.

**L** Heavenly Father, let our homes find eternal rest in Your Son and His Word. Give fathers and mothers diligence in teaching their children, and preserve us all from hardness of heart. Give us an urgency to hear the good message of salvation today.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. We thank You for the protection granted to all who have attended to our needs during the pandemic. As we again experience an increase in infections, we ask for Your continued protection and grace.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** 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; and 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.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple  
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;  
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,  
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,  
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,  
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this  
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these  
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's  
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.  
days, For the liv - ing of these days.  
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.  
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

## The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

### October 18 – October 23, 2021

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

#### Introit Psalm 34:1–4, 17; antiphon Psalm 34:18

- L** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.
- C** I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- L** My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.
- C** Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!
- L** I sought the Lord, and he answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.
- C** When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- C** 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.
- L** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,      **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,      **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,      **C** Have Mercy on us.

Psalm 34 is bursting with imagery of God's goodness and compassion. It is an excellent psalm to sing when we become aware of God's answer to our prayers.

The verses of our introit help us direct our attention to God's tenderness toward the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit. It is a rare person among us who hasn't felt that way from time to time.

When has your heart been broken and your spirit crushed? I know it hurts when our enemies and cruel people wound us. But the most crushing experiences in life come when our friends and loved ones betray us.

It is at these times when we cry out to God more than ever. It is then that the Lord hears and delivers us out of all our troubles.

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus** Lutheran Service Book 770, Lutheran Worship 516, The Lutheran Hymnal 457



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

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## Tuesday

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

## Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray: O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

When I was in high school, there was a popular western film starring Clint Eastwood, titled *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. The movie was a success and catapulted Clint Eastwood to stardom. But I must admit, the only things that I really remember about it are the title and the theme music.

In many ways, the title could be a commentary on our years here on earth. While most of us long for the good in life, all we often seem to encounter is the bad and the ugliness of sin.

The words of our collect echo our ongoing prayer. We ask God to put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us. This He does for us in Christ. But He often does it in ways that we cannot understand at the time.

On Good Friday, it seemed that Jesus' life had come to an end. It seemed that all of His good plans were being dashed in the most ugly and bad way. But the cross was not the instrument of Christ's defeat. It was His tool of triumph!

Easter followed Good Friday! In Jesus' resurrection, all that is bad and ugly is overcome by the ultimate goodness of God.

As we walk through life, we often encounter the bad and the ugliness of sin. But in faith, we know that God is always at work in our lives for our ultimate good. Even the crosses that we bear are used by God for our blessing. We know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Rather than dwelling on the bad and ugly in the world, let us heed Paul's words in Philippians 4:8-9. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

Let us pray: O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

## Psalm 119:9–16

- L** <sup>9</sup>How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.  
**C** <sup>10</sup>**With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!**  
**L** <sup>11</sup>I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.  
**C** <sup>12</sup>**Blessèd are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!**  
**L** <sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare all the just decrees of your mouth.  
**C** <sup>14</sup>**In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.**  
**L** <sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.  
**C** <sup>16</sup>**I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

## Kyrie

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Christ, | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |
| <b>L</b> O Lord,   | <b>C</b> Have Mercy on us. |

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm. It consists of 176 verses. Listening to it in the audio Bible takes me 15 minutes and 42 seconds.

William Wilberforce was a British politician and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. It is reported that he would recite Psalm 119 in its entirety while walking back from Parliament through Hyde Park to his home.

Psalm 119 is all about the importance and usefulness of God's word. It is divided into sections of eight verses each. To emphasize the importance of God's written word, each of the eight verses begins with the same Hebrew letter. Our psalm for this week is the second section in which each word begins with the Hebrew letter Beth.

Here we understand the importance of God's word for youth. During our teens and early twenties, we are learning our way through life. We often face great temptations. Some people, who were very faithful in childhood, go dangerously off course in these years.

Our psalm directs us to God's word, to His commandments, and to His testimonies. These are much more valuable than earthly riches.

When the young and old among us are tempted by wealth, may we remember these important words of Jesus. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Prayer: O Lord, we are often tempted by the wealth and riches of this world to abandon You and Your word. Grant us the grace to delight in Your commands and to trust in Your promises, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

### Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

### Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

<sup>10</sup>He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. <sup>11</sup>When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? <sup>12</sup>Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

<sup>13</sup>There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, <sup>14</sup>and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. <sup>15</sup>As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup>This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? <sup>17</sup>Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

<sup>18</sup>Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. <sup>19</sup>Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. <sup>20</sup>For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

I've often heard (and maybe said), "I don't know what it's like to be rich but I'd like to give it a try." Or maybe you've been told, "Money can't buy happiness but it makes sadness a lot more comfortable."

Our Old Testament lesson from Ecclesiastes contradicts such thinking. Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon, a man of unparalleled wealth. Yet he can speak eloquently about the dangers of loving money.

Have you ever witnessed wealth and riches destroy a family? Greed and envy are never far from us.

In the classic 1982 film, *Annie*, Grace asks Daddy Warbucks for permission to adopt Annie. To this request, he answers, "I'm a businessman. I love money, I love power, I love capitalism, I do not now nor never will love children!"

Maybe you have known people like that. No, most won't say it so bluntly but we can see it in their actions. Or I should say, people can see it in our actions.

Grace responds to Daddy Warbucks with this unforgettable quote, "You love money and power and capitalism? You know they're never going to love you back."

No, money will never love us. But God has loved us so much that He sent His only-begotten Son to be our savior. He loves us every day of our lives now and throughout eternity. May we always live in the joy of knowing God's love for us in Christ.

Prayer: O Lord, keep us free from the love of money. Grant us joy in our vocations and contentment with the good things You have given to us. We are genuinely grateful for the best gift of all, our Savior, Jesus. In His name, we pray. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Hebrews 4:1–16

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest,’”

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” <sup>5</sup>And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup>Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup>So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup>for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup>Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>14</sup>Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

As Halloween approaches, you will see more and more homes decorated for the occasion. Some will be pleasantly decorated with jack-o-lanterns and tasteful ghosts. Others will be gruesome and grotesque. But as stated in the ancient Roman adage, “*De gustibus non est disputandum.*” You may be more familiar with the English version, “There is no accounting for taste.”

Among the decorations, you are bound to spot a tombstone with the letters R. I. P. which stand for the Latin phrase, “*Requiescat in pace.*” (May he rest in peace.) It was first found on gravestones sometime before the 5<sup>th</sup> Century and is a distinctly Christian epitaph. The peace referred to in the phrase is the peace of Christ.

Our Epistle lesson for this week talks about this rest. Its first reference is the Sabbath rest of the Old Testament that echoed God’s resting on the seventh day of creation. It pointed to Christ, our ultimate Sabbath (Colossians 2:16-17).

It also refers to the Exodus and God’s people wandering in the wilderness until they entered the Promised Land. There, they rested from their pilgrimage.

We, too, look forward to the day when we will rest from our earthly wanderings in the promised land of heaven to live eternally with our savior, Jesus. He, too, wandered in this earthly wilderness of sin. He is the great High Priest who offered Himself for us so that we may enter the promised land of eternity with Him.

He experienced the same struggles and hardships that we face on our pilgrimage through life. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

When you see a Halloween tombstone marked R. I. P., think of Jesus and the rest that He grants to our souls. In His own words, He invites us, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Prayer: Almighty God, Lord of the living and the dead, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Strengthen our faith that at the appointed time we may peacefully fall asleep in You and be gathered with all Your saints in light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Saturday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Gradual Psalm 91:11; 103:1

- L** He will command his angels concerning you
- C** to guard you in all your ways.
- L** Bless the Lord, O my soul,
- C** and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

## Verse of the Day: Mark 10:27b

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. With man it is impossible, but not with God. Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. For all things are possible with God. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

## Mark 10:28–31

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

You might recall that the Gospel lesson for this week is really the second half of the account of the Rich Young Man beginning at Mark 10:17. Without that background, Peter’s comment doesn’t seem to be an appropriate response to Jesus.

When the rich young man claimed to have kept God’s laws perfectly, Jesus told 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.” He did this to demonstrate to this young man that he hadn’t kept God’s commandments. He hadn’t loved God with all his heart, soul, and mind. He hadn’t loved his neighbor as himself.

No one keeps the law perfectly. No one is saved by their good deeds. No one is saved by “doing.” We all need God’s grace and the salvation won for us by Christ on the cross. We all need forgiveness of sins.

Peter, along with the rest of the disciples, heard this encounter. Although they had been with Jesus for three years, the disciples are still struggling to understand the full impact of Jesus’ ministry and his impending death and resurrection. So Peter declares, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” He is reminding Jesus, “We are not like this rich young man!”

Of course, in many ways, they are like this rich young man. We all are like this rich young man. There is much in life that we love more than we love God. Yet, through faith, we receive forgiveness for our failure to love. We live under the cross and daily receive God’s mercy. By the working of the Holy Spirit, our lives are changed. We now begin to do good things, not to earn salvation, but to show our thanks and love for God for His goodness toward us.

Peter and the disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. God’s power was at work in their lives. Jesus’ response to him indicates that, without a doubt, God does not abandon His people. There are great blessings for those who have left behind their sinful lives and followed Jesus. But what does Jesus mean when He says that they will “receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions”?

Those with unbelieving families may become alienated from them. However, they are welcomed into the Church, the family of God. In God’s family, the Church, our family expands a hundredfold. We are blessed by our brothers and sisters in Christ just as we have been called to be a blessing to them.

Yet, God’s family is persecuted by the world. But this will end one day. We have a home in paradise that will never end. There we will join with our brothers and sisters in Christ singing God’s praises forevermore.

Prayer: O Lord, to You we commend all our brothers and sisters in Your Church. Remove any discord and conflict from among us. Give to us tender hearts to bear with compassion the burdens of others. Grant that we may act as true brothers and sisters in all circumstances; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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