

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23B)

## October 10, 2021

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 112:3-6 (antiphon: Psalm 112:1)*

*Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD  
who greatly delights in his commandments!*

*Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.*

*It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;  
who conducts his affairs with justice.*

*For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.*

**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.**

*Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**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]♪*

### **GRADUAL**

*Psalm 91:11; 103:1*

*He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

### **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** ... Lord, in Your mercy

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayer concludes:*

**P** ....through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> 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,

<sup>7</sup> O you who turn justice to  
wormwood  
and cast down righteousness to the  
earth!

<sup>10</sup> They hate him who reproves in the  
gate,  
and they abhor him who speaks the  
truth.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore he who is prudent will  
keep silent in such a time,  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

### **Hebrews 3:12-19 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in  
any of you an evil, unbelieving heart,  
leading you to fall away from the  
living God. <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in  
Christ, if indeed we hold our original  
confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is  
said,

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

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

### **Mark 10:17-22 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> As [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?” <sup>18</sup> And Jesus said to him,  
“Why do you call me good? No one is  
good except God alone. <sup>19</sup> 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.’ ” <sup>20</sup> And he said to him,  
“Teacher, all these I have kept from  
my youth.” <sup>21</sup> And 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.”<sup>22</sup> Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

## THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**PROPER 23** (Oct 9–15)

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

Hebrews 3:12–19

Mark 10:17–22

### *Christ Jesus Is the One and Only Good by Whom You Inherit Eternal Life*

The Lord is the Author and Giver of Life, as well as a consuming fire of judgment against all “*who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate*” (Amos 5:12). “*Seek the Lord and live,*” therefore, by hating what is evil, loving what is good and doing what is just and right, according to His Word: “*And so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you*” (Amos 5:6, 14–15). Understand that “*No one is good except God alone*” (Mark 10:18). The life that you are called to live is found neither in your “*great possessions,*” nor in your good works, but only in Christ Jesus. Let go of “*all that you have,*” and follow Him, even unto death, and “*You will have treasure in heaven*” (Mark 10:21–22). Do not harden your heart against His voice, nor turn away from Him, lest you “*fall away from the living God.*” Rather, hear and heed His call, cling to His Word and “*exhort one another every day,*” that you may remain steadfast in Christ and “*firm to the end*” (Heb. 3:12–15).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

October 17 (Proper 24B) Pentecost 21:

Eccl. 5:10-20, Psalm 119:9-16, Heb. 4:1-13 (14-16), Mark 10:23-31