

## **THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **PROPER 24 B**

Ecclesiastes 5:10–20

Hebrews 4:1–13 (14–16)

Mark 10:23–31

### ***By the Voluntary Poverty of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of God***

To love and trust in earthly wealth is vanity. For nothing of this earth will last forever, nor can any of it grant eternal life (Eccl. 5:10). But the one who trusts in God is “*occupied with joy in his heart*” and is able to sleep in peace, “*whether he eats little or much,*” because he knows that the “*days of his life*” are “*the gift of God*” (Eccl. 5:12, 18–20). The person who trusts in riches cannot sleep, because he “*shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand*” (Eccl. 5:15). Therefore, it is difficult “*for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God*” (Mark 20:23). Indeed, it is impossible for man, and yet, “*All things are possible with God*” (Mark 20:27). Thus, the Rich Man, Jesus Christ, has made Himself poor and has gone through “*the eye of a needle,*” through death and the grave, “*to enter the kingdom of God*” on our behalf (Mark 20:24–25). He is the “*great High Priest who has passed through the heavens*” (Heb 4:14), so that we may now enter His Sabbath rest by faith in His forgiveness (Heb. 4:3–9).

# Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24B)

## October 17, 2021

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 34:1-4, 17; Antiphon: Psalm 34:18*

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

**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.**

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *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]♪*

### **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.**

## **Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 (ESV)**

<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.

## **Hebrews 4:1-16 (ESV)**

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.

### **Mark 10:23-31 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> And 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."

*Next Week's Readings from God's Word:*

October 24 Pentecost 22:

Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52