

## 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 25)

## October 23, 2022

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 56:10-13; Antiphon: Psalm 56:3*

*When I am afraid,*

I put my trust in you.

*In God, whose word I praise,*

in the LORD, whose word I praise,

*in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.*

What can man do to me?

*I must perform my vows to you, O God;*

I will render thank offerings to you.

*For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,*

that I may walk before God in the light of life.

**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.**

*When I am afraid,*

I put my trust in you.

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy; forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid; and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of 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.**

## **Genesis 4:1-15 (ESV)**

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."<sup>2</sup> And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,<sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?<sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

<sup>8</sup> Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"<sup>10</sup> And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.<sup>11</sup> And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.<sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear.<sup>14</sup> Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth,

and whoever finds me will kill me."<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

## **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

<sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.<sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Luke 18:9-17 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.<sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not

even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

<sup>15</sup> Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch

them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.<sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.<sup>17</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

#### THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 4:1–15

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

Luke 18:9–17

#### ***In Humble Repentance, Faith Lives by Grace and Mercy and Is Exalted by God in Christ***

Jesus tells a parable “to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous” (Luke 18:9). In this parable the Pharisee unjustly boasted before God on the basis of his own merits, whereas the tax collector intently prayed, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:13). That poor miserable sinner trusted Christ, and he went “down to his house justified, rather than the other” (Luke 18:14). So do little children, “even infants,” come to Jesus with their need, and they “receive the kingdom of God” through faith (Luke 18:15–17). For “the one who humbles himself will be exalted,” but “everyone who exalts himself will be humbled” (Luke 18:14). That is why “the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard” (Gen. 4:3–4). St. Paul’s life, “poured out as a drink offering,” was another sacrifice like Abel’s (2 Tim. 4:6). The Lord stood by Paul and strengthened him, that “the message might be fully proclaimed” (2 Tim. 4:17). It is by that Gospel message of Christ that we “have loved His appearing” and as repentant sinners pray to “the Lord, the righteous judge” by faith (2 Tim. 6:8).

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

October 30: Reformation Day (Observed)

Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19