

ALL O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.



THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.



THE BIBLE READINGS

God speaks to us.

The Old Testament Bible Reading:

Proverbs 25:6-22 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; 7 For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen. 8 Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; 10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. 12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear. 13 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. 14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain. 15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone. 16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit. 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you. 18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow. 19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. 20 Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

PASTOR Here ends the Old Testament Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P: It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord:

C: And to sing the praises of Your name, O most High.

P: To show forth Your loving-kindness in the morning:

C: And Your faithfulness every night. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord:

C: Shall flourish in the courts of our God. Hallelujah!



PASTOR The New Testament Bible Reading comes from Romans chapter 12, beginning there in the 14th verse.

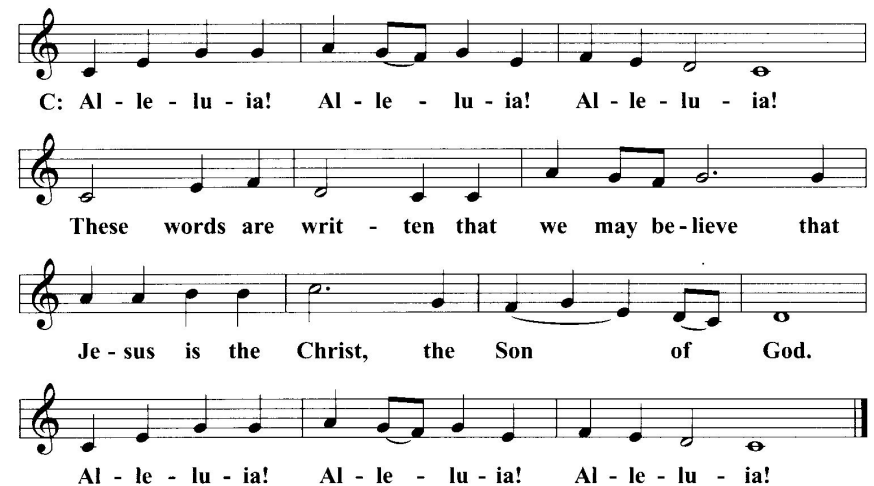


The New Testament Bible Reading

Romans 12:14-21 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PASTOR: Here ends the New Testament Bible Reading.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Congregation stands for:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 12)

**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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He
rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the
body; And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Congregation sings Hymn 27

THE SERMON

Luke 14:1, 7-14 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. 7 So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: 8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; 9 "and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11 "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Theme: "CHRISTIAN STATUS SYMBOLS"

- I. Christ's gift of Humility (7-11)
- II. Christ's gift of Selflessness (12-14)

THE OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart O God, and re-
new a right spir - it with - in me
Cast me not a - way from Thy pre - sence, and
take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me,
Re-store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion; and up-
hold me with Thy free spir-
it. A - men.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 788:1:

**Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river that refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving with a spirit large and true.
That our life and all our living we may consecrate to You.**

PRAYERS - (Pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (All)

**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.

Congregation sings Hymn 360

Congregation stands for:

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



♩ A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Closing Hymn 15

*** SILENT PRAYER ***

Announcements

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

WELCOME EVERYONE! Especially any visitors who may be with us. We are glad you are here and invite you to join us again soon in our worship of the One true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. If you'd like to become a member, we offer a free "Information Course" in which the Pastor will meet with you at your convenience to study and discuss the Bible's teachings. Just ask!

TODAY BEGINS OUR FALL SCHEDULE

Peace: 7:30 am Bible Class followed by Worship Service at 8:00 am
St. John's 10:00 am Sunday School, 10:15 Bible Class, 11:00 Worship Service

BIBLE CLASS Today we begin a study of the two great teachings of the Bible – The Law and the Gospel. We are using a study guide entitled "Teaching Law and Gospel" by William E. Fischer. Copies are available for your use, and if you'd like to purchase one they are \$6.

October 1-4; Coordinating Council meets in Eau Claire, WI
October 9-11; Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference at Trinity Lutheran Spokane

GET YOUR COPY of the Fall edition of "St. John's Goings On" put together by Michol Ann Jensen. We thank her for her excellent work!

A NOTE OF THANKS "The Family of Glen Altman wishes to thank all who have been with us in thoughts, prayer and cards during this time and for the beautiful service and wonderful meal after the service. We appreciate all of you."

TUESDAY – Confirmation with Ben
10:00 am Bible Study Class at St. John's

THURSDAY - Confirmation with Ben
7:30 pm Bible Study Class at the Dean Hattan residence

ST. JOHN'S REMINDERS:

Next Sunday Ladies Aid meets after church. All ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend!

Church Cleaning: There is a list for you to sign if you are able to serve your LORD by cleaning the church.

Altar Flowers: There is a list for those who wish to bring flowers for the altar on any given Sunday.

Pre-service Goodies: If you are able to bring goodies of some kind for people to eat while they are visiting from 10:45 till 11:00 (after Bible Class and Sunday School) please sign on the sheet in Kitchen.

CLC NEWS The Rev. Paul Krause of Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, WI, has the call from the CLC Mission Board to serve as a Foreign Missionary.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE? In this deceitful world all manner of scammers try to take advantage of the populous in general, the gullible, as well as senior citizens. So we are warned, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Hardly it seems are there more proficient scammers than politicians. Hardly are there any better practioners of "false witness" (8th commandment) than politicians who without a hint of conscience attack the person and reputation of the opponent (slander, defamation of character). They are also artful at promising more than they can deliver. Lest we think too highly of ourselves, remember: sins against the 8th commandment are common to all flesh since the fall into sin.

We wish we could be sure that what politicians promise they will deliver. But when we hear promises tailored to the particular constituency of the moment, we do well to remember, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Indeed lying, slander, and promising what is not possible to deliver was practiced first in the garden. Satan practiced it when he tempted Adam and Eve. What were the *lie*, the slander, and defamation of character? Satan *lied* and *slandered* God when he suggested that *God* lied! Though God had said that Adam and Eve would die if they disobeyed Him and ate of the forbidden tree, Satan said, “You will not surely die” (Genesis 3:4). Satan *lied* and *slandered* God when he promised, “You will be like God” (Genesis 3:5) if they would eat of that which God had said they should not. Satan *slandered* God by diminishing God, suggesting that the created being would be elevated to the level of the Creator.

Adam and Eve learned some lessons: What God says and promises is true! They also learned that what anyone other than God promises has to be taken with a grain of salt, particularly if it sounds too good to be true.

With the introduction of sin began the decline of what had God had originally pronounced perfect. By Adam’s sin death came into the world (Romans 5:12). They died *spiritually* and morally. They hid from God and they lied to Him (Genesis 3: 8, 10). They did not immediately drop dead but they eventually died *physically*. Further, with the introduction of sin came the judgment to *eternal death*. Scripture tells us of those who die in sin: “Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isaiah 66:24). Those who die in sin and unbelief suffer eternally the living death of hell.

All that God says is true including the judgment that He pronounces upon evil and upon the ungodly and unbelieving. To many this sounds too harsh to be true. *But as God says it, it is true!*

On the other hand what God promises the sorrowing and penitent sinner concerning eternal life in heaven sounds too good to be true, *but it is true. God who cannot lie has promised*, “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us...was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God...” (2 Corinthians 1:19, 20).

Consider therefore what the Lord Jesus Who is the resurrection and the life tells us, “He who believes in *Me*, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in *Me* shall never die” (John 11: 25.26). All who by the power of the Spirit possess spiritual life and thereby are alive in Christ shall die in due time according to their body (unless the Lord returns before one dies), but the reality is that that one who is alive in Christ never dies, but lives eternally. That is why the apostle could say “For me to live is, Christ, to die is gain for me” (Philippians 1:21). This is also why he could

“desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better” (Philippians 1:23). Life with Christ after this veil of tears is far better than life on this earth. How could Paul be so sure? He could be sure because the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world according to promise. Jesus died for and in the place of sinners. Jesus received the wages we had earned (Romans 6:23). Isn’t that a unique concept?! Jesus endured the dread punishment of hell. Jesus rose again from the dead and restored the quality of life that God intended for man when He created him—life in paradise forever. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). There is no double jeopardy in the Father’s plan. Christ suffered. We do not have to suffer eternal death. Our debt has been paid! If that sounds too good to be true, *it nevertheless is true!* Blessed are all who believe it.

In His holy Word our Lord tells us concerning the future life which at the present moment is beyond our comprehension “They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7)... “... There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21). If that sounds too good to be true, *it nevertheless is true!* What a future for those who believe it!

Dear fellow believer in Christ Jesus, Joshua’s God is your God. In his farewell to Israel shortly before he was to enter into the promised rest Joshua said, “And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed” (Joshua 23:14).

We are blessed to be able to consider all that the Lord has said to us and done for us from the vantage point of the empty tomb. As Christ is risen from the dead all that our God has said has and shall come to pass.

Too good to be true? Not if God said it! - Rev. Dan Fleischer, Emeritus

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:20-21

The Old Testament Bible Reading for 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-22 Humility IS a virtue, a Christian virtue who's origin is the humility of our Savior Jesus Christ. By faith we ponder the Humility of our Savior and it shows in our relationships to others. In these verses are God-given wisdom for you and me to hear and follow. We read...

Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; 7 For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen. 8 Do not go hastily to court; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, And do not disclose the secret to another; 10 Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. 12 Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear. 13 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. 14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain. 15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone. 16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, Lest you be filled with it and vomit. 17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, Lest he become weary of you and hate you. 18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow. 19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. 20 Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; 22 For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, And the LORD will reward you.

THE GRADUAL

P: It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord:

C: And to sing the praises of Your name, O most High.

P: To show forth Your loving-kindness in the morning:

C: And Your faithfulness every night. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord:

C: Shall flourish in the courts of our God. Hallelujah!

The New Testament Bible Reading

In these verses, we are told how Christian love expresses itself not only toward friends, but especially toward those who want to put you down or even curse you for your Christianity. As always, within the commands of God's Word comes the power to carry them out! We read...

Romans 12:14-21 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PASTOR: Here ends the New Testament Bible Reading.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!