

# TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Meaning of Life  
October 20 & 21, 2012

## AS WE GATHER

"What is the meaning of life?" is a question we often ask. It is often answered in terms of health, wealth, and leisure enjoyment. Today's Scripture readings move us to find meaning in how we relate to God rather than in the things of this world. And that relationship is secure because of the sacrifice of His Son for us. In Christ we are rich indeed; in Him we are eternally alive.

**10:30 PRESERVICE BELL ANTHEM**    *"Rejoice O Pilgrim Throng"*

## WELCOME

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

### + PREPARATION +

## OPENING HYMN #705    *"The Man Is Ever Blessed"*

The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,  
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorner's place.

But makes the Law of God His study and delight  
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.

He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;  
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'n-ly fruit.

Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;  
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.

How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat  
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?

He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;  
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

(Please rise)

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

## CONFESSION

Pastor: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me a sinner.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### *"Gloria In Excelsis"*

*Page 204*

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing-  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth.

**People: Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 (*Fear God*) Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind? All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger. Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot. Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 4:1-16 (*The eternal Sabbath rest awaits people of faith.*) Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work." And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest." It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it

judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**5:00 ANTHEM**

*"The Lord Be With You"*

*Children's Choir*

**10:30 ANTHEM**

*"God's Peace"*

*St. Paul's Choir*

(Please rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 10:23-31 (*Worldly wealth can hinder entering the kingdom of God.*) Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard 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 man to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #567 "Not What These Hands Have Done"**

Not what these hands have done Can save this guilty soul;  
Not what this toiling flesh has borne Can make my spirit whole.

Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;  
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;  
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, Can give me peace within.

Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,  
Can rid me of this dark unrest And set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, To me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, Can this sore bondage break.

I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine,  
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.

**SERMON**

*“The Impossibility of Salvation”*

*Mark 10:23-31*

(Please rise)

**APOSTLES’ CREED** *(as found on the back cover of hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

**10:30 BELL ANTHEM**

*“Thy Word”*

*Bell Choir*

(Please rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Gathered in the name of Jesus and assured of His promised presence, let us call on our heavenly Father for ourselves, for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, and for all people. Almighty God, we pray for all the faithful, redeemed by Christ’s blood, that they would ever grow in their trust in Christ,

**People: filling us with faith that life and salvation and even all things are possible with God.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith, asking you to keep them steadfast in the truth

**People: and to give them protection and comfort when they are assailed by the old evil foe.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for all who will receive Christ’s body and blood, that they may receive it in faith, in sincere repentance of sins,

**People: and praying that this holy meal would bring us comfort and joy through fellowship with Christ, the very bread of heaven.**

Pastor: Lord God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, fill us all with a spirit of thankfulness for daily bread and all you provide for us,

**People: teaching us not to put our trust in earthly things but to live in humble gratitude for all your gifts and to use them in loving service to our neighbor.**

Pastor: Lord of Hosts, we pray for those who live in harm’s way because of violence, war, or terrorist activities, praying for our law enforcement and military personnel.

**People: Fill them with inner peace as they perform their duties and as they wait in hope with us all for an end to outer turmoil, violence, and hostilities at the coming of Christ.**

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son was known as the Great Physician. Bless those who care for the sick and injured, especially doctors, nurses, technicians, and all medical workers.

**People: Grant that they carry out their calling with joy and dedication as they seek to preserve life and care for all.**

Pastor: Father, we pray for those who suffer physical afflictions and difficulties in life, especially Jonathan, Leroy, Loni, Helen, Nancy, Woody, Irma, Sarah, Gerald and Joe.

**People: Relieve their suffering, heal their wounds, and give them strength to bear their infirmities and difficulties by your grace.**

Pastor: God of Comfort and Hope, we pray for all who mourn and remember loved ones including Sharon, Larry, Carol, Frank, Nicki, Katherine, Donald, Phil and Jean, that you would comfort them in their time of sorrow.

**People: Fill them with faith in your promise of a joyful reunion in heaven with those they love who have died in the faith.**

Pastor: Remembering the sufferings and death of your beloved Son, we place our petitions at your throne of mercy, trusting your promise to hear our prayers and grant us all that we need for this life and the life to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor:

**People:**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI HYMN**

**“Lamb of God”**

*Page 210*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**10:30 BELL ANTHEM**      *“Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves Me”*

**HYMN #703 “How Can I Thank You, Lord”**

How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your loving kindness,  
That You have patiently Borne with me in my blindness!  
When dead in many sins And trespasses I lay,  
I kindled, holy God, Your anger every day.

It is Your work alone That I am now converted;  
O’er Satan’s work in me You have Your pow’r asserted.  
Your mercy and Your grace That rise a fresh each morn  
Have turned my stony heart Into a heart newborn.

Lord, You have raised me up To joy and exultation  
And clearly shown the way That leads me to salvation.  
My sins are washed away; For this I thank You, Lord.  
Now with my heart and soul All evil I abhor.

Grant that Your Spirit’s help To me be always given  
Lest I should fall again And lose the way to heaven.  
Grant that He give me strength In my infirmity;  
May He renew my heart To serve You willingly.

O Father, God of love, Now hear my supplication;  
O Savior, Son of God, Accept my adoration;  
O Holy Spirit, be My ever faithful guide  
That I may serve You here And there with You abide.

**HYMN #779 “Come, My Soul, with Every Care”**

Come, my soul, with ev-’ry care, Jesus loves to answer prayer;  
He Himself has bid thee pray, Therefore will not turn away.

Thou art coming to a King, Large petitions with thee bring;  
For His grace and pow’r are such None can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin; Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, Thy rest to me impart, Take possession of my heart;  
There Thy blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.

While I am a pilgrim here, Let Thy love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend, Lead me to my journey’s end.

Show me what is mine to do; Ev’ry hour my strength renew.  
Let me live a life of faith; Let me die Thy people’s death.

**HYMN #810 “O God of God, O Light of Light”**

O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heav-en’s glory bright The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

For deep in prophets’ sacred page, And grand in poets’ winged word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night Rang out the son, “Good-will to men!”  
Sung once by first-born sons of light, It echoes now, “Good-will!” Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death so steeped in hate and scorn-  
These all are past, and now above He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates! So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits. We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Then raise to Christ a mighty song, And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav’n-ly host, your praise prolong, And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain! Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign, All glory, pow’r! Amen, amen.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Please rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

**People: for His steadfast love endures forever.** *Psalms.118:1*

Pastor: We give thanks, Lord our God, that you have forgiven our sins, and we ask that we may respond by serving you and loving those who surround us, strong in faith and life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #813      “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”      Stanzas 1, 4, 5, 7**

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice give thanks and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

**Refrain      Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,  
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng. **Refrain**

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,  
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Preacher                             | Pastor Harold Bender                      |
| Liturgist                            | Pastor Gregg Stanton                      |
| Lectors                              | Pat Mundstock, Russell Hurst, John Ficken |
| Acolytes                             | Rhiannon Mueller, AJ Olson, Joseph Bender |
| Organist & Children’s Choir Director | Roger Gottschalk                          |
| Choir Director                       | Nancy Hoelke                              |
| Bell Choir Director                  | Jan Schneider                             |
| Music Coordinator                    | Kim Woller                                |

*Reformation*

At next weekend’s worship services we will be celebrating  
**“Reformation”**. Please wear the color **red** as a symbol  
of this important time in our Church’s history.

**Semi-Annual Voter’s Meeting**  
**Sunday November 4th at 10:00am in the church.**