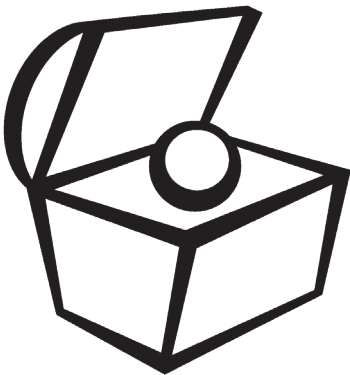


Pentecost 21

October 13, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23 (Year B)

We often ask God to do things for us and provide us with blessings, but we fail to live according to his will and his ways. There is a response that emerges in our lives out of faith and obedience to Christ, but it is a costly one. A life centered in Christ is one that seeks to care for others, to provide for those in need, and to set aside our worldly desires. Only when we give up what is most dear do we find true life.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Establish Justice in the Gate

The prophet Amos expressed the anger of God toward those who failed to look out for the poor. They took bribes, failed to enforce true justice in the gate, afflicted the righteous and succumbed to evil deeds. The Lord, through Amos, called the remnant of Joseph back to God’s ways, commanding them to act justly.

Psalm 90:12-17 God’s Grace Be Upon Us

The psalmist asked for the Lord’s presence among the people, granting wisdom and blessing the work of their hands. He cried out for God’s steadfast love.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 3:12-19 Keep Confidence in the Lord

The author of Hebrews warned his listeners not to fall away from faith in God. Each member of the community of believers is called to remind the others of the goodness of the Lord so that no one would fall into evil ways. It is only through obedience that we, like those who followed Moses, will be able to receive the promises of God.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 10:17-22 What Must I Do to Gain Eternal Life?

Jesus is approached by a rich man who wondered what he must do in order to inherit life eternal. Jesus’ response to him concerned the keeping of the commandments. The man replied that he had fulfilled the laws of the Lord throughout his life. Jesus then urged him to give up his possessions and to come and follow him. The man walked away dejected because he could not, or would not, do this last thing required of him by Christ.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise in Ordinary Time.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed in Ordinary Time.
- “Obedience” is often heard as an oppressive word, akin to a forced compliance to someone’s orders or will. But faithful devotion to Christ requires that we submit ourselves to the King of kings. This is not a negative obligation for us to begrudgingly fulfill, but rather something we do out of love for our Savior. When Jesus asks us to do something, we can trust that in such a command we will find our greatest joy. We want to please God by following Christ in this life.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Son of God, Eternal Savior	364	---	842	655	---	---
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Give to God Our Immortal Praise	520	---	---	848	12	12
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Praise and Thanksgiving	409	---	789	689	---	---
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God	---	783	712	---	---	---
Take My Life, that I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Praise Ye the Father	517	---	---	---	168	168
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling	---	734	---	608	177	177
Soul Adorn Yourself (Deck Thyself)	224	---	636	488	81	81

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:
- God of Justice (CCLI# 4447128)
 - Jesus Over Everything (CCLI# 7112397)
 - Simple Living (A Rich Young Man) (CCLI# 5933552)
 - I Will Follow (CCLI# 5806878)
 - Yes I Will (CCLI # 4327059)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.