

The world will take us to Hell!
BUT!!!!

God's way will take us to heaven if we walk with Him
and obey His truths!!!

So all who hear and come to the Lord will have His
SALVATION and be saved

*ALL WHO COME WILL BE INCLUDED.
THAT MEANS ALL WHO WALK WITH GOD.*

It starts here!

The 3 Words that lead to SALVATION.

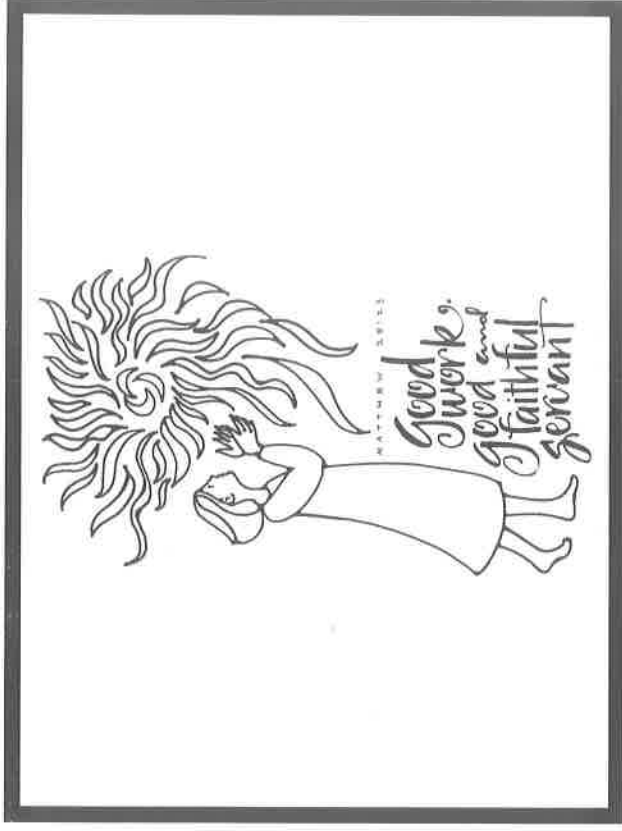
Confess, Believe, Ask

We need to remember each day **HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO REPENT OF ANY SIN. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ONCE WE HAVE CONFESSED A SIN WITH AN HONEST HEART, THEY ARE FORGIVEN FOR ALL TIME, AND WE NEVER HAVE TO ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS AGAIN.** It is also important to learn what salvation really is and what happens when we accept it.

The Lord will take notice and save us from whatever we are concerned about when we talk to Him in Jesus' Name. When we do this in obedience we will experience God's working in our lives.

1. To Have A Willingness To Serve
2. To Expect the impossible
3. To Have Confidence in God And Yourself
4. To Show Compassion

JUST TO BELIEVE:



Prayer on entering the Lutheran Church of the Cross
Our Father, help us to be silent; Help us to be thoughtful of You and other worshippers; Help us to be reverent; for this is Your House. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 612, Mansfield, PA 16933

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15th, 2020

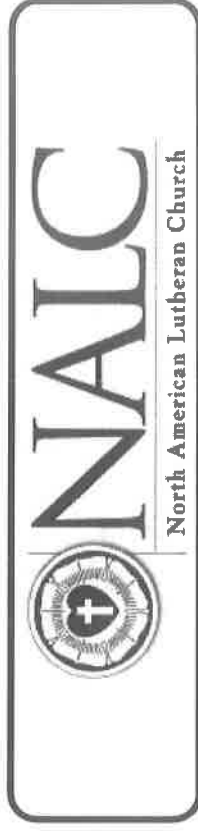
Minister: The Rev. Raymond Dean Forsythe
PO Box 13, Covington, PA 16917

Office Phone: 570/659-0241

Pastor's Cell Phone 570/439-5609

Web Site: www.lutheranchurchofc.org

We are a member congregation of the:



A SPECIAL WELCOME!

We welcome you our friends in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ to **Lutheran Church of the Cross** where God's name is honored, God's word is heard, and God's presence made real and the Cross of Christ lifted high. Here may the sorrowing find comfort; the weary find rest; sinners find forgiveness; the troubled experience peace; the stranger needed friends; and to all people: God's abiding love.

Let's enter our worship in Silent Prayer

Opening Thoughts

The Day of the Lord is ever upon us, even though believers have been waiting for his return since his ascension long ago. Time for us is vastly different than God's time and so we wait with anticipation and patience for the return of Christ. **In the meantime we are encouraged to be good stewards of all that God has given us: investing in others, sharing His Word, and living each day with joy and mercy.**

Our Service starts on page 21 of the Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, with the brief order of

Confession and Forgiveness.

Opening Words

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Hymn No. 247

Come, Thou Almighty King

GIORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

SALUTATION page 24

someone special is present; he is himself our dwelling. His providence for his creation is certain, for he is an eternal refuge. While we may imagine our existence as uncertain and even fleeting, God's existence is as never-ending as it is never-beginning. Therefore, our home in him is also infinite. His is an everlasting kingdom, a caring dominion, both faithful and kind to all generations and forever.

Such a caring and generous God deserves our obedience and service, as well as our thanks and praise. This is most certainly true!

FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

"A world without God"

Would that be a good place to LIVE?

Why?

What can we do about it?

Note

How important is **HEAVEN** to You? How about a taste of **HEAVEN** here on earth while we are waited for our eternal **HOME IN HEAVEN/**

Is it worth giving your all and or all you have to God's control to be part of His kingdom?

How big is your desire for HEAVEN.

Will you be part of God's HOLY FAMILY?

WILL YOU SEEK TO BE HOLY DAILY?

What does TRANSFORMED mean?

From one Thing to Another!

NOTE:.....

Two of the servants acted as if these funds were their own and they invested it so it would grow. The third servant simply buried it in the ground so that nothing would happen to it. He was only thinking of the punishment he would receive if he lost any of it. We can understand his wariness, especially on days when we watch our retirement funds go up and down. But his lack of trust in himself, coupled with his hard heart toward his Master, caused him to sit on the funds as if he were a bird sitting on a nest of eggs. The least he could have done was to put it in a savings account where he received 0.01% interest!

We learn from Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed that God has given us all we have - everything from our body and soul, to our house, family, and work. What this parable of Jesus instructs us on is how we are to manage all that we have been given. We can hoard and stockpile all that we have been given or we can invest it in the Kingdom work of our Lord. This not only includes our money and time, but also the myriad gifts and abilities God has bestowed upon us.

Why were the first two servants willing to invest their Master's resources and the third one wasn't? In a word: fear. The first two servants trusted their Master and wanted to please him, so in obedience to his will, they invested what was entrusted to them and received a greater return. The fearful servant buried what was entrusted to him in the ground. He was unwilling to take a risk in order to please his Master. In fact, he held his Master in contempt. This story reminds us that loving like Christ loves, investing in other people in his name, can be a risk - but the rewards are incredible. We will be called, "good and faithful" when we follow Jesus.

God has given us all we need for life. More than that, he has made himself our home. Paul puts it this way: "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). The Father's care for us is so complete that he provides himself as our dwelling place. It is beyond being more at home when

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you. A Let us pray. . C. Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The FIRST LESSON is from the 1st chapter of Zephaniah

**First Reading:
Zephaniah 1:7-16
God Will Intervene**

The question of how to be prepared for Jesus' return is answered four times in today's lessons. Being ready for Jesus' return is not passivity on our part; instead, it is an active preparing, an active waiting and serving and doing justice in the world in the name of Christ. There is no reason to fear anything. Christ promised he would return in due time. We await this moment with an active and vibrant faith.

Zephaniah 1:7-16 (NKJV)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

8 "And it shall be, In the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

9 In the same day I will punish All those who leap over the threshold, Who fill their masters' houses with violence and

deceit.

10 "And there shall be on that day," says the LORD, "The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, A wailing from the Second Quarter, And a loud crashing from the hills.

11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; All those who handle money are cut off.

12 "And it shall come to pass at that time *That* I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And punish the men Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, Nor will He do evil.'

13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, And their houses a desolation; They shall build houses, but not inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine. "

14 The great day of the LORD is near; *It is* near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

Here ends the reading" C Thanks be to God

PSALMODY

Psalm 90:1-12

God the Everlasting One

The psalmist sings of the everlasting nature of God for whom a thousand years is like one day. Secret sins are brought to light in the sight of the God of the ages

Psalm 90:1-12 (NKJV)

1 A Prayer of Moses the man of God. LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

You never know when a thief will come. Such will be the day of the Lord. You will not know until it is upon you. So walk in the light of love, be sober in your faith, and alert with the hope of salvation. Your hope in the Lord Jesus Christ is certain, so encourage one another as you see the Day drawing near (Heb 10:25).

Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30

Depending upon whether these were silver or gold talents, the master entrusted the servant with the one talent somewhere between 20 and 600 years worth of income. No wonder he demanded to know why such a huge amount of money had not been invested.

We may not think we have been given as much to invest as others have received. But each of us has been given enough, for we have been given what God assigned (1 Cor 7:17). He is just in his distribution and we must be faithful is what he has imparted to us.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Pentecost 24 - November 15, 2020

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

- Matthew 25:23 -

Scholars say that five talents is about 75 years worth of wages for those who would have been around to hear Jesus' parable of the talents. Calculate in your head how much that would be for your household. That puts it in perspective a bit, doesn't it? The Master in this story gave each of his servants an incredible sum of money to manage while he was away. Even the servant who received only one talent had a great responsibility.

the screen. The scene I refer to is when something is about to happen that requires silence, and one of the actors starts talking. A typical example is when it is critical that everyone remain silent so that their location is not announced to an enemy, but someone screams in panic. Such is the scene in our First Reading

Be silent. Why? God is about to act. Who would chatter through the actions of the Almighty? Evidently, a lot of people. There will be shouts in the market, wailing in some corner of the city, crashing about in the hills, and mighty men will be crying. The prevalent sound on the great day of the Lord will be a bitter noise, accompanied by the blast of trumpets and battle cries. For the Lord is about to act in judgment.

Psalms - Psalm 90:1-12

The complacent (Zeph 1:12) will have nowhere to hide. Their destruction will be complete; their goods and houses will be laid waste. But those who trust in the Lord will have no need of homes, for the Lord has always been their refuge. The one who numbers his days knows a reckoning is coming, and wisely considers the power and wrath of God.

Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We recently bought a new house. When the previous owners were moving out, they finished moving some odds and ends in their car and van. The man and wife each took loads from the house to their vehicles and came back inside for another load. When they came back outside with the next load, they discovered that the few minutes it takes to walk from the house to the driveway was enough time for thieves to steal golf clubs, stereo, and other pricey items.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

3 You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men."

4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.

5 You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up:

6 In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.

7 For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified.

8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

9 For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.

10 The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

12 So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

The SECOND LESSON

is from the 5th Chapter of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Coming Day of the Lord

The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief in the night. It will be like the sudden onset of labor pains of a mother ready to give birth. Paul urges the Christians at Thessalonica to keep awake, be sober, do not sleep or fail to be ready, for the coming of the Lord is near. Those who believe bear the marks of faith and love are not destined for wrath, but for salvation through Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NKJV)

- 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.
- 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.
- 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
- 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.
- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.
- 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.
- 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
- 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Elaine Beller, Wayne Beller, All the sick, Mabel Emerson, Joan McDougal, Joey Ketner, Rodney Smith, Clifford Short, Ryan Bogaczyk, Larry Moran, Robert Gaylord, Jonathan P. Matczak, Dwayne Goodwin, Ruth Anne Machmer, Jeff Garges, Brandon Garges, Dylan, Ryan, & Madison Earl, Jesse, Victims of disasters, Gibson, Those in Nursing Homes, Our Children, Teens, and youth program

A Prayer for Each day of the coming week.

Gracious God, in baptism you pour out upon us gifts of immeasurable, eternal worth — faith, salvation, and the calling to serve as your witnesses in the world. Help us to deepen our baptismal life, walking wet daily, and responding with abandon to your gracious gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

Be silent before the Lord and number your days. The God who made humankind, brings it back to the dust. In this, mortal man discovers wisdom in the eternal God. Knowing the brevity of this troubled life, we ought to turn to him who is our everlasting refuge and dwelling place. We cannot put off this wisdom, living like there will always be tomorrows. For the Lord will unexpectedly return at the most inconvenient time. Like good and faithful servants, we are to stand at the ready, dressed in faith and love and the hope of salvation.

First Reading - Zephaniah 1:7-16

There is a recurring scene in movies that drives me crazy. It annoys me so much that I usually end up talking to

Here ends the reading” C Thanks be to God

The Hallelujah Page 25

The GOSPEL LESSON

is from 25th Chapter of St. Matthew

Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

Jesus teaches about stewardship by using a story about a master who entrusts his property to his servants’ care while he is away. Each one invests what they have been given, realizing a profit before the master returns. One, however, buries his portion in the ground. The master returns to judge the “worthless servant.”

Matthew 25:14-31 (NKJV)

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

Canby Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg

Pastor: Rev. Stan Bower

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, State College

Pastor: Rev. Logan Wilmoth

St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Maurer

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill

Pastor: Rev. Steve Shipman

St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millersburg

Pastor: Rev. Mark

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seven Valleys

Pastor: Rev. Lawrence Cummings

St. Jacob Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glen Rock

Pastor: Rev. Paula L. Murray

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown

Pastor: Rev. Nathan C. Minnich

Plus Ours: Lutheran Church of the Cross

Pastor: Rev. Raymond D. Forsythe

Remember to Pray for our Leaders:

Bishop and Mrs. Dan Selbo - NALC

President & Mrs. Donald Trump

Governor & Mrs. Tom Wolf

Remember to Pray for these Special Needs:

All the Service men and women and those in HARM’S

WAY: Sgt. Andreas Wagner, Pvt. Derek Stevens

Physical Needs:

Our Police Forces, Savannah, Bob Lyle and his wife, Mrs.

Nancy Forsythe, Pastor Forsythe, Mertella Smith, Gene and

Patricia, Tom Matczak, Lou Mitcheltree, Frank Williams,

20 So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

21 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

23 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

24 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.'

26 But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.'

27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.'

28 Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.'

30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory."

The Cost is \$5.00 Per Week Please give to the Pastor Forsythe. Checks made out to Lutheran Church of the Cross.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday at 9:45AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School After Service

PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at the Garges' at 6:00 PM

Card and Flower Ministry

Contact Nancy Forsythe at 659-0241 if you know of someone who is in the hospital or is sick. We need to start a flower fund so we have funds to purchase flowers for those who are sick.

Our Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request please call the following numbers and give your prayer request. Be brief and to the point **Call 659-0241.**

If you want to be on our Prayer Chain tell Nancy Forsythe.

We are: Christ-Center Mission-Driven /

Traditionally-Grounded Congregationally / Focused

Last Week's Record 11/8/2020

A. Attendance 9 B. Offering - \$504.00

PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: We need to know of those in need of

PRAYER! Ask the person if they would like their name on our LIST!

Our Sister Churches:

Hope Lutheran Church Smethport Pastor: Need a Pastor

WESTERN MISSION DISTRICT CHURCHES

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville

Pastor:

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 85
Break Thou the Bread of Life

PREFACE page 33

SANCTUS page 35

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION page 36

AGNUS DEI page 37

DISTRIBUTION

All those who are baptized are welcome to join us to receive the precious gifts of forgiveness and communion as the Lord comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy

Communion. Children not yet communing may come forward and receive a blessing from the Pastor Forsythe.

NUNC DIMITTIS page 38

THANKSGIVING page 38

BENEDICAMUS page 38

BENEDICTION Page 38

CLOSING HYMN # 211

Great is Thy Faithfulness

NOTICES OF EVENTS

For November 15, 2020

We are meeting at 717 Lambs Creek Road, in Mansfield.

The Bulletins are sponsored by the ? . Sponsors are needed. You may sponsor one or more weeks at a time.

The Gospel of the LORD

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe

"Why do we hide what the Lord has given us"

The APOSTIES' CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

PLEASE Note:

All We Need To DO Is Serve Our Lord "DAILY"

Today's Notes

Why is it so hard for us to "keep silent before the Lord?" (Zephaniah 1:7) When there's a break in the conversation, we have to fill it with words. Is it because we are uncomfortable? Do we need noise and chatter to make ourselves feel like we are not alone? It takes intention and practice to sit in silence. Listening is a lost art. But the prophet reminds us that the Day of the Lord is near. Christ will come again - soon! Being silent before the Lord so we can hear his voice is an important way to prepare

FIRST

Zephaniah 1:7-16
God Will Intervene

Do you believe the above statement?

Are you really really ready?

ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THAT GREAT DAY?

*We are to just keep on going in the direction of
the Lord.*

SECOND

Psalm 90:1-12
God the Everlasting One

We are to sing a new song!!!

**WHAT THINGS ARE HOLDING YOU
CAPTIVE TODAY AND STOPPING YOU
FROM BEING WHAT GOD WANTS FOR
YOU?**

*Do We call out to God for Help from the
effects of the world and satan?*

THIRD

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
The Coming Day of the Lord

A God of power and might, you alone are the true ruler of the world. All authority comes from you. Bless the leaders of the nations, that they may know the truth and lead their people according to it. We pray for our own nation – *the members of congress, the supreme court justices, all governors, state legislators, mayors and councils.* Guide and direct them to know and do your will. Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

A For the persecuted Church: that remembering the eternal house of God not made with hands, they may persuade others with their reverent fear of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy.
C hear our prayer.

A Hear the cry of the righteous, and save all whose spirits are crushed. Grant them healing and wholeness in Jesus name. **We especially pray for those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts...**(pause) Lord, in your mercy.
C hear our prayer.

A For all those who have died in the promise and power of the of resurrection, that held in your eternal keeping they may come with us to that new day when you work within us all far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, and to you be all glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Lord, in your mercy, C **Hear our prayer.**

P. Merciful Father, guided by your Holy Spirit, we are confident that you know our needs and that you hear our prayers and so we place all for whom we pray into your loving care for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

HOLY COMMUNION Page 31

*P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C. And also with you.*

teaching churches, and for missionaries throughout the world.
Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. Father, as we pray for our leaders of our nation, strengthen the wills of all who take counsel for the nations. Teach them to use wisely and well the authority and power entrusted to them, so that all people may prosper and live peaceably with one another. **Especially President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence and Governor Tom Wolf**, that they seek your will when making decisions for the welfare of their people. Lord, in your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

A. We give thanks to You, O Lord, for Bishop Dan Selbo, Pastor Forsythe, former **Bishop John Bradosky**, ministers and lay leaders who preach the Word of God, that they may testify to all people of repentance toward God and faith in our risen Lord Jesus Christ: and that meditating on Your precepts and fixing their eyes on Your ways, they may declare all the just decrees of Your mouth. Lord, in your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

A Let the cross of Christ be our source of hope and power in this congregation. May we never be ashamed of the foolishness of Christ crucified, but may we boldly proclaim the cross as your wisdom and righteousness, that many will experience its life-giving power. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Fill us with your Spirit, so that we desire to walk as children of light who try to discern what is pleasing to you. Give us your wisdom, so that we take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them so that the truth is made known. Help us to make the best use of our time, realizing the days are evil and time is of the essence to proclaim Christ as Lord to the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief in the night.

Believe it or Not!!

The CHOICE is ours to MAKE!!!
GOD will not make it for US!!!

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OUR DAILY LIFE?

Now THINK of the FOLLOWING and WHAT would be YOUR Answers?!!!!

1. What are you doing to make sure you are ready to meet Jesus?

Answer _____

2. What directions are you taking in regards to this statement -The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief in the night.?

Answer _____

3. Do you ever consider what the Lord may want you to do as we wait for His Coming?

Answer _____

4. ARE WE REALLY THE CHILDREN OF GOD who are in love with Jesus and His ways?

Answer _____

5. The true direction of OUR LIFE, is to be with God, walking in Christ's footsteps right up to the moment of His return. Do you believe this.

Answer _____

FOURTH

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

The 5 - 2 - 1 notice.

5 _____
2 _____
1 _____

THIS HAS TO DO WITH WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THE LORD WHILE WE WAIT FOR HIS RETURN!!!

The Value of Five Talents of Gold today is 10,326,154.28 USD (U.S. dollars). Jul 24, 2020

Think of this: "A world without God"

ONE LAST WORD

We live before God in this sinful flesh by always looking to Christ for righteousness. *When we look to self—to religious devotion and good works—for a sense of our own virtue, we are undone.* As soon as we look to Christ alone, FILLED with the hope of his commitment to us, the new person comes forth again to live in Christ's righteousness and purity.

"God's Word to us today!"

SERMON HYMN No. 196

My Jesus I Love Thee

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. C. God of faithfulness, we bring before you the precious gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for those in need and prepare for your Son's advent into our hearts. Amen.

Right before the Prayers of the Church

HYMN # 21

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L. In trust let us pray to God our Father, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit for the needs of the our neighbors near and far. a brief silence.

L. Almighty God our heavenly Father, we thank you this day for the hope of life we have through your Son Jesus, the Living Word. Help us to know like the Apostle Peter that there is nowhere else to go, because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. Empower us to tell others, so that they might know him as well. Lord, in your mercy. C **hear our prayer.**

A. Father, may all of us of the Lutheran Church of the Cross be Your influence of the love You want us to share with others of the gift of salvation for all people. Help us to be the Scriptural Church that draws others. Bless also our sister congregations, Bethany Lutheran Church, Canby Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, St Luke Lutheran Church, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Jacob Lutheran Church, Salem Lutheran Church, and all the Pastors, and the churches that need pastors, the NALC Church Body, and all NALC Churches and Scriptural