

The 3 Words that lead to SALVATION.

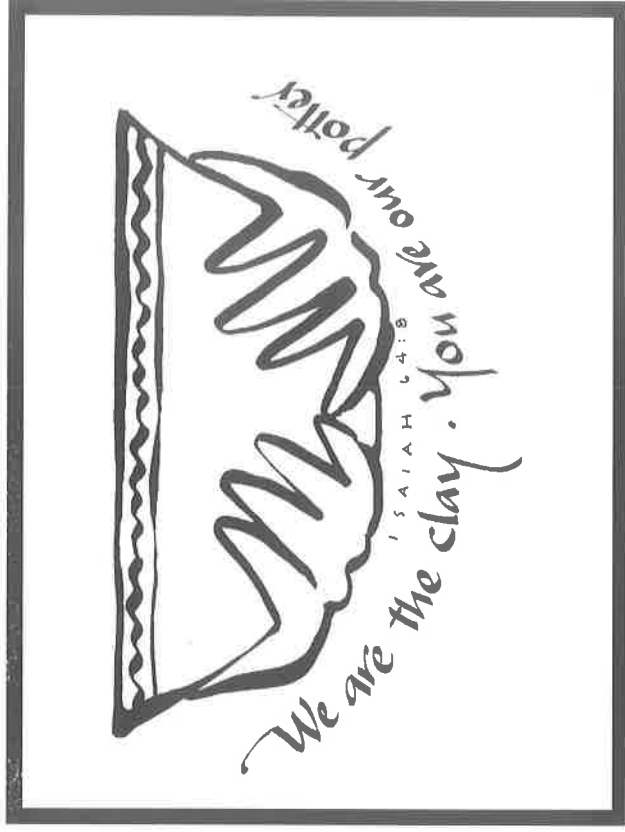
Confess, Believe, Ask

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 CONFESED 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 First Sunday of Advent

November 29th, 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.lutheranchurchotc.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

God's anger is kindled by our sin and disobedience. The Lord turned away from his people and left them vulnerable to the consequences of their iniquity. Yet, when they cried out to him for salvation, when they vowed to live in unity with him as his beloved created ones, he sent his Son into the world to save us from sin and death. Through Jesus, God's face shines upon us. He is faithful until the end of the age.

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. 119

O Come, All Ye Faithful

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

SALUTATION page 24

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:.....

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!

living the faith. We are not sharing the Good News of the Lord who loves us and cares for us, who saved us from the power of sin and death, and who gives us the promise of eternity.

Sometimes we have to stop talking and get on with trusting.

**May we be about living like followers of Christ,
no matter what's going on. Amen.**

By definition, confirmation and extreme unction, or last rites, are not sacraments. They do not contain the clear command of God in Scripture, nor do they have a promise of his grace. This is not to say that confirmation and last rites do not have value. Yet, if they are considered sacraments, then it is the Church's grace that is offered, with whatever value that human or, worse, institutional grace has to offer. For these things are institutionally commanded.

Again, this is not to say that the Church should not have rites like Confirmation, but we should not consider it a sacrament that offers God's grace. Rather, it is God who confirms us outside of any commandment of a rite. True confirmation comes from God's Spirit, not from the Church. He freely gives us faith and his gifts, sustaining (or confirming, 1 Cor 1:8, KJV, ASV, NASB) believers until the end. He keeps us holy and blameless until his coming just as he made us holy and righteous to begin with, because of faith in Christ.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you. A Let us pray. . C. **Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The FIRST LESSON is from the 64th chapter of Isaiah

First Reading:
Isaiah 64:1-9

Don't Be Angry, O Lord!

Israel was cut off from the Lord because of their iniquity. Sin had separated them from God, but a cry went out for God not to forget them, even though they were unclean. Israel vowed to be like clay and allow God, their Father, to be the potter as they recognized that they were the very work of his hand.

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NKJV)

- 1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence--
- 2 As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil-- To make Your name known to Your adversaries, *That* the nations may tremble at Your presence!
- 3 **When You did awesome things *for which we did not* look,** You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence.
- 4 **For since the beginning of the world *Men* have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.**

5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness. Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned-- In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved.

6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

7 And there is no one who calls on Your name. Who stirs himself up to take hold of You: For You have hidden Your face from us. And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

8 But now, O LORD, You *are* our Father; We *are* the clay, ***and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.***

9 Do not be furious, O LORD, Nor remember iniquity forever: Indeed, please look--we all *are* Your people!

Here ends the reading” C Thanks be to God

PSALMODY

Psalm 80:1-7

Let Your Face Shine, That We May Be Saved

The psalmist lamented to the Lord that he had left them to drown in their tears and made them a laughingstock to all their neighbors. “Let your face shine upon us,” he cried, begging the Lord to save his people from their misery. He implored the Shepherd of Israel to come and save His people.

Psalm 80:1-7 (NKJV)

1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell *between* the cherubim, shine forth!

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, Stir up Your strength, And come *and* save us!

Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional

First Sunday in Advent - November 29, 2020

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1 Corinthians 1:4-9-

There’s a saying that comes to my mind when I feel like I cannot say what I really want to say, “Don’t talk about it, be about it.” Speaking the truth in love means I cannot always blurt out what I really wish I could say! (Been there?) But, there’s just so much talk going on around us, all the time. Talk about politics, talk about viruses and masks, talk about how we are inconvenienced and struggle with a new reality during this time of COVID safety measures. But when do we say to ourselves, “Enough talk! Let’s do the best we can and continue to rely on the faithfulness of God”?

At the heart of living in the faithfulness of God is trusting that he is with us, that he hasn’t simply created us and left us to our own devices. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were called into the fellowship of Christ for a reason: to live as followers of Jesus. To live like we are followers of Christ means we rely fully on his will, mercy, and care. We are called to share that worldview with others as they struggle with making sense of all the chaos, unrest, and danger in the world. As Christians, we are called to come to terms with what is going on in the world, to be sure, but then we are to stop talking about our woes and start living like we know for certain that God is faithful. If we don’t live trusting our Savior, but rather spend a great deal of our time questioning the presence and providence of God, then we are not

First Reading - Isaiah 64:1-9

We have been in our sins for a long time. Then, when least expected—nor could we have expected it—God did something awesome. He acted for those who wait for him in hope of forgiveness. No one has ever imagined a God who meets with his people, though they are sinners (Matt 9:10; Rom 5:8).

Psalms - Psalm 80:1-7

God does not remain angry with his people forever. He will yet smile upon us and restore us. On that day, he will save us from ourselves—from our sin—and the laughter of our enemies will cease.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As we await the coming of the Lord, he has equipped us with every gift needed to sustain us in our faithful expectancy. God is so faithful in this regard, that he will keep us guiltless on the great day of his appearing. We are made holy through Christ's holiness. Therefore, we are kept guiltless by this free gift of grace that God provides.

Gospel - Mark 13:24-37

No one knows the day of Christ's returning. Jesus said that even he did not know when he would return. So, we should not be concerned with times and dates. Instead, our interest should be the same as Jesus' business (Luke 2:49). Until he does return, we should be alert and wakeful, doing the work of the gospel.

3 Restore us, O God; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

4 O LORD God of hosts, How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, And given them tears to drink in great measure.

6 You have made us a strife to our neighbors, And our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!

The SECOND LESSON

is from the 1st Chapter of 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

God is Faithful

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth giving thanks for them and the fact that they were enriched by the Spirit, possessing all good gifts for the sake of the ministry of the Gospel. "Christ will sustain you!" He wrote. "You were called into Christ!"

..*****

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (NKJV)

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,

6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,

7 **so that you come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the reading” C Thanks be to God

The Hallelujah Page 25

The GOSPEL LESSON

is from 13th Chapter of St. Mark

Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 13:24-37

Son of Man Will Come in the Clouds

Jesus explained to his followers that a time of distress would come but they would see the signs in the sun, stars and heavens that would clue them in to the time when the Son of Man would return to earth in great power and glory. *Angels would be sent from the ends of the earth to gather God's elect.* Jesus assured his friends that even though heaven and earth would pass away, **his Word will last forever.**

Mark 13:24-37 (NKKJV)

24 **"But in those days**, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 **Then they will see** the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 **And then He will send** His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

Remember to Pray for these Special Needs:

All the Service men and women and those in HARMY'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 Mitchellree, Frank Williams, Elaine Beller, Wayne Beller, All the sick, Mabel Emerson, Joan McDougall, 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, you are the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and end. May your Spirit kindle in us a spirit of readiness, that we might at all times and in all places be prepared for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

We are restored and saved in a most important way. God has come down in his Christ and saved us. This is that awesome deed that we could never have expected of him. But he does not stop there; he enriches us with good gifts to be used to bear fruit for his kingdom until he returns. He sustains us until that Day when he comes in the clouds with great power and glory to gather us with all the elect. This is his word to us, so we must be on guard, watching for his return.

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:

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, Elizabethville

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

28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know **that summer is near.**

29 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near--at the doors!

30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

31 **Heaven and earth** will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

32 "**But of that day and hour** no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

33 **Take heed, watch and pray;** for you do not know when the time is.

34 *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

35 **Watch therefore,** for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning--

36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

37 **And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"**

The Gospel of the LORD

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe

"How LONG, LORD, How LONG"

The APOSTLES' CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

PLEASE Note:

"How LONG, LORD, How LONG"

All We Need To Do Is Serve Our

Lord "DAILY"

Today's Notes

• Themes of the endtime pervade the readings for today. Many popular sources try to incite fear in the hearts of believers, but Jesus assures his followers that they will detect the signs and can count on his Word enduring forever. There is nothing to fear for God's elect - those whom he loves and who love him.

FIRST

Isaiah 64:1-9

Don't Be Angry, O Lord!

Israel was cut off from the Lord because of their iniquity. Sin had separated them from God, but a cry went out for God not to forget them, even though they were unclean. Israel vowed to be like clay and allow God, their Father, to be the potter as they recognized that they were the very work of his hand.

Why would God be angry with us?

The is a personal question for each of us.

What would your answer be and be honest?

NOTICES OF EVENTS

For November 29, 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 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 11/22/2020

A. Attendance 9 B. Offering - \$634.00

PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK

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.

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 community 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 # 92

Hark, the Glad Sound!

To the tune: Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart

3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains shook at Your presence.

4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.

5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness. Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned-- In these ways we continue; And we need to be saved.

6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

7 And there is no one who calls on Your name. Who stirs himself up to take hold of You: For You have hidden Your face from us. And have consumed us because of our iniquities.

8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

9 Do not be furious, O LORD, Nor remember iniquity forever: Indeed, please look--we all are Your people!

Do you believe the above Scripture and the affect it has on you?

Are you ready to walk closer to the Lord? _____

Are you ready really ready to meet Him? _____

Are you workable CLAY in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ? _____

ARE YOU Really PREPARING FOR THAT GREAT DAY? _____

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

SECOND

Psalm 80:1-7

Let Your Face Shine, That We May Be Saved

The psalmist lamented to the Lord that he had left them to drown in their tears and made them a laughingstock to all their neighbors. “Let your face shine upon us,” he cried, begging the Lord to save his people from their misery. He implored the Shepherd of Israel to come and save His people.

We are a laughingstock in three ways!

First: People are laughing at us because of the close life we are living and walking for and with God.

Second: There are those Christians who are lukewarm and involved and active in church but the Lord does not have 100 percent of their life.

This is dangerous.

Third: People will laugh at those who say they are Christians are living for the devil.

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?

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.

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

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 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.

THIRD

Corinthians 1:3-9

God is Faithful

..*****

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth giving thanks for them and the fact that they were enriched by the Spirit, possessing all good gifts for the sake of the ministry of the Gospel. "Christ will sustain you!" He wrote. "You were called into Christ!"

Believe it or Not!!

The CHOICE is ours to MAKE!!!

GOD will not make the decision to love, accept and serve Him for US!!!!

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OUR DAILY LIFE?

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

1. Do you think the Lord is angry with you?

Answer _____

2. Do you believe that you can be enriched in everything of life by God as: -The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief in the night.?

Answer _____

3. Do you believe that God is faithful to you?

Answer _____

4. If So will you give God the praise this Thanksgiving and Advent Seasons and how will you do it?

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 or the time that God takes us Home. Do you believe this.

Answer _____

FOURTH

Mark 13:24-37

Son of Man Will Come in the Clouds

Being READY!

Mark 13:36-37 (NKJV)

³⁶lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

³⁷And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

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. 106

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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