

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***GOD SIGHTINGS**

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Having experienced much loss, Job longs to come into God's presence, where he can defend his own righteousness. Job cannot find God, but he never doubts that God exists and is in relationship with him.

A reading from Job:

¹Job answered [his friend:]

²"Today also my complaint is bitter;
[God's] hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

⁴I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.

⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.

⁷There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸"If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;
I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

¹⁶God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;

¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!”

A Word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:1-15

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸**“Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

¹²**Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**

¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

A reading from Hebrews:

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

v. 1

ELW 736

736 **God the Sculptor of the Mountains**

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er of the sand, God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land: you are womb of all cre-a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er of the sand, God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land: you are womb of all cre-a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

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***GOSPEL – Mark 10:17-31**

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
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***APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Wholeness of the Earth



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
 2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
 3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
 lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
 God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
 whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin - ning in you?
 whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH, Bret Hesla

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In God our longing can find rest, for we can bring all our prayers and hopes. Each prayer will end: "God of grace," You are invited to respond: **Receive our prayer.***

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Dear father in heaven, we come before you as your children, that through your Spirit we are and may remain your children. We live to the glory of your name. Strengthen us during times of trouble and help us when danger tries to come into our lives, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

God, you sent Jesus to stand among us and we trust in him. Thank you for this time to learn more of Jesus and you. Thank you that today we are gathered to offer you praise for everything you do. God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

God, remind us of the big picture around us by opening our minds and hearts to those in need. May we reach out to our brothers and sisters, and we pray that each day we may grow to be ever more faithful to the teachings and life of your son. God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. We pray especially for Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar. God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PRAYER REFRAIN

v. 3 after

ACS 1067

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

736

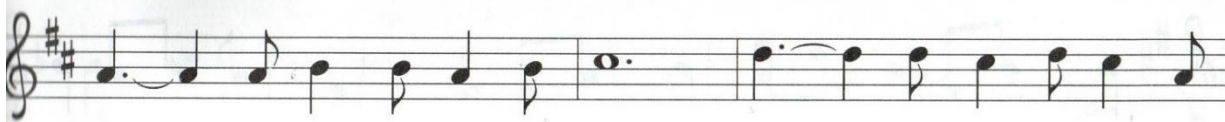
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er of the



wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,



God the source of all we eat: you are host at ev - 'ry



ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.**

**By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

736

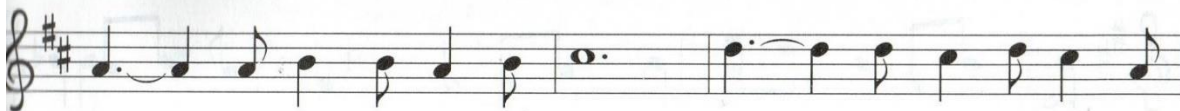
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined



youth, God the ta - ble-turn - ing proph - et,



God the re - sur-rect - ed truth: you are pres - ent ev - 'ry



mo - ment, we are search-ing; meet us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

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Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

***COMMUNION**

This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy God,

**you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.**

**Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2055 E. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-963-5356

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:

Pastor	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Linda Hermann
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Ellis Cutler
Streaming	
Prayers	Linda Hermann

Contact info:

Kjersten Sullivan, Pastor

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Church Office

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Sermon transcripts can be found at: www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY
October 13-20, 2024

TODAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 1:00pm Facebook Live Bible Chat

WEDNESDAY: 10:30am Bible Chat | 5:30pm Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY: 11:30am Roadrunners @ Sandhill

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:30am Intent Sunday Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Job 38:1-7[34-41]; Psalm 104:1-9, 24,35b; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.

October 6: Janelle – Rod Tungate, Tracy Barons; Tresa – Cathy and her family; Joanne – Linda, Monty; Wayne – those affected by the hurricane; Eileen – John and Gloria.

September 29: Janelle – Rod Tungate, Tracy Barons; Eileen – Cathy and Jack Spiker; Anderts – Greatnephew Colton; Wayne – all affected by Hurricane Helene.

September 22: Eileen – Connie; Janelle – Rod Tungate; John – peace in Ukraine, Palestine, and in our own lives; Tresa – Thanksgiving for prayers while at Luther Seminary.

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Grace Lutheran Church in Vassar. Learn more about their ministry at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurchVassarELCA/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is – Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall and their pastor, Rev. Douglas Ogden. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://lebanonlutheranchurch.com/>.