# The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 13, 2024 9:30 a.m. Worship



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258

Grace Eaton 1 1 @gmail.com— www.gracelutheranofeaton.com
Pastor: Dwight Hanson

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# **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

Please take a moment to fill out the "Attendance & Communion" Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister

A - Assisting minister
\* - PLEASE STAND

**C** - Congregation

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### **PRELUDE**

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
- C Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

# Please kneel or sit as you are able.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# \*SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE:

- The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
- $\mathbf{C}$

# \*GATHERING HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" (WOV 776)

# \*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. P
- $\mathbf{C}$

# \*KYRIE:



# \*HYMN OF PRAISE:

# Glory to God



# \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- P Lord God, the Alpha and Omega, you are our beginning and our end. Help us to leave behind any worldly possession or pleasure that would keep us from experiencing the abundant life which you have prepared for all your children;
- C through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

# FIRST LESSON: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

A A reading from Amos:

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, <sup>7</sup>O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!

<sup>10</sup>They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. <sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. <sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins — you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. <sup>13</sup>Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. <sup>14</sup>Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. <sup>15</sup>Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# PSALM 90:12-17

- A 12So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- C <sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? be gracious to your servants.
- A <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
- C <sup>15</sup>Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us and the years in which we suffered adversity.
- A <sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works and your splendor to their children.

C <sup>17</sup>May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

# SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 3:12-19

A A Reading from Hebrews:

<sup>12</sup>Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup>But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup>For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup>As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." <sup>16</sup>For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup>And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup>So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

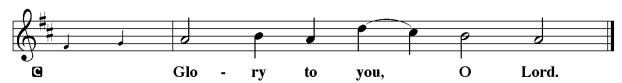
- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# \*GOSPEL VERSE:



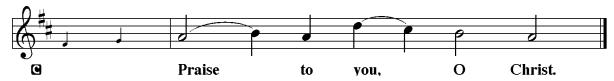
# \*GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.



<sup>17</sup>As {Jesus} was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother." <sup>20</sup>And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." <sup>21</sup>And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



# **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson:** <u>Today!</u>

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Day by Day" (WOV 746)

### \*APOSTLES' CREED:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

A Let us pray: Heavenly Father, Lord of the generations, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Grant us the wisdom to understand our place in the grand scheme of existence, and to receive each day as a gift and an opportunity. Your grace descends upon a world caught in the clutches of rebellion, where evil exalts itself, and goodness is disregarded or twisted. Draw us back to your will. Soften our hearts and inspire our minds by the presence of the Holy Spirit and the everlasting Word. Deliver us from any bondage that hinders us from following the Lord Jesus. And open our hearts to the needs of others. Lord, in your mercy,

# C Hear our prayer.

A We pray, O Lord, for the whole Church on earth to be Christ-centered. This weary world needs the kind of rest that only Jesus can give. Inspire us to encourage each other in faithfulness, even as we have been encouraged by others along the way. Lord, in your mercy,

# C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the many needs of the world. But first, we thank you for the beauty and bounty of the harvest. Inspire us to be good stewards. We also pray for those who struggle in the wake of disastrous storms. Strengthen those working to recover. Comfort the grieving. And raise up good neighbors, near and far, to be of assistance. Remind us of our common humanity. Bless all first responders, rescuers, and aid workers. Inspire and strengthen civic leaders in

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their responsibilities. Keep them, and all who seek office, safe. Teach them to look to you for the wisdom they need as they serve. And we also pray for peace throughout the world, particularly in Israel and the Middle East, Ukraine, Haiti, wherever there is terror or turmoil. Bless all who stand with honor in harm's way on behalf of others. And watch over their families. Lord, in your mercy,

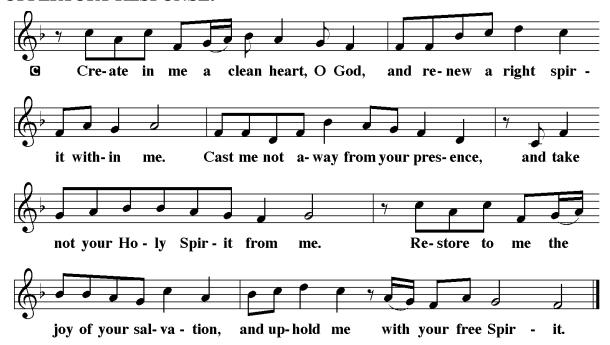
# C Hear our prayer.

- A We pray on behalf of all who need healing in any way: The Community of Springfield, Ohio, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Phyllis Boaz, Kelly Coffman, Amanda Dell, Jane Farish, Nick Flowers, Elaine Fudge, Judy Hansen, Tiffany Ingram, Amy Jackson, Tina Leonard, Patty Lipps, Kole Maggard, Karen & Daren Marshall, Aubrey Mitchell, Andy Proeschel, Jim Proeschel, Gordan Self, Iva-Laura Sherry, Dean & Mary Shetter, Jackie Steiner, as well as those whom we name in our hearts (pause for additional names). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
- C Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **OFFERING**

ANTHEM: "What Shall I Offer My God?" Choir

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE:**



## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER:

- P Let us pray.
- P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.
- C Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# \*LORD'S PRAYER:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# \*THE BLESSING:

- P Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen

\*SENDING HYMN: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" (LBW 364)

# \*DISMISSAL:

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### **POSTLUDE**

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# **Announcements**



The Flowers on the Altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by: Scott & Nancy Parkinson in Loving Memory of their mothers' — Barbara Gray and Sally Parkinson — Heavenly Birthdays in October.



New Member Inquiry Classes:

Would you like to find out more about Grace Lutheran Church, or even about what it means to be a Christian in the Lutheran tradition? You are invited to take part in two inquiry classes, led by Pastor Hanson. They will be on two **Sundays**, **October 13**<sup>th</sup> **and 20**<sup>th</sup>, **following worship** in the church library across from

the church office. Emphasis is on the word "inquiry," an open-ended opportunity. But if, coming out of those classes, some wish to join the congregation, we will schedule a Sunday for that. If you know of someone who might be interested, please spread the word. **Class sign up:** Please call Mary in the office at (937) 456-6258 or email her at <a href="mailto:graceeaton111@gmail.com">graceeaton111@gmail.com</a>. Name and contact information would be helpful.

Sunday S'mores Youth Group: Middle & High School youth are invited to come and help design a Program for their age group. Meeting will take place at the Fire Ring just beyond the Shelter House. Currently this is being planned for every other Sunday beginning in October TONIGHT (and the 27th). Reach out to Tina Ebright 937-472 -5663 for more information



VBS Planning for 2025. It takes a Village to pull off VBS. Tina is asking for all who want to help plan VBS 2025 to come and meet. Monthly Meetings are planned — 10/22/24, 11/12/24—and into 2025! If you have input or would like to be involved in the planning of VBS 2025 please plan to attend. Reach out to Tina Ebright 937-472-5663 for more information.



Calling All Worship Assistants — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 at 10:30am: Lectors, Communion Assistants, Ushers, ASSISTANT'S Greeters, and Altar Guild members are invited and encouraged to attend, as are any of those who may want to consider serving in any of these capacities. Whether you are a long-time Worship Assistant or you would like to know more about

serving, please join us for this important meeting. Contact Carol Matevia or any of the other Worship Committee members for additional information.

# "COUPS FOR THE TROOPS"

Collects coupons up to two months expired, which are accepted overseas for our military personnel to use at the commissaries. Please place clipped or unclipped coupons in the box in the Narthex & the Fellowship Hall. Contact Becky Lenk with any questions you may have—937-416-8435. Thank you!



# **DID YOU KNOW?**

Grace has an <u>on-line church directory</u> with photos (if you were photographed). It's an app that you can download onto your phone, so it's easily available when you're out somewhere and need someone's phone number and/or address — it's right there on your smart phone. If you would like more information or help with setting this up on your smart phone contact Rex Mt. Castle (937-839-2577 or rkmt.castle@gmail.com) or Mary Shetter (937-456-6258 or graceeaton111@gmail.com)

# Worship Assistants

**Altar Guild for October:** Becky Lenk, Tiffany Ingram **Offering Counter for October:** Wanda Winter

# Sunday, October 13—Pentecost 21

9:30 a.m.

**Greeter:** Scott & Nancy Parkinson

**Usher:** Gary Pemberton **Lector:** Debbie McKinney

# Sunday, October 20 — Pentecost 22

9:30 a.m.

**Greeter:** Allen & Kelly Coffman

**Usher:** Allen Coffman **Lector:** Tina Ebright

**Communion**: Kelly Coffman, Jane Coggin

# <u>Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)</u>

10/06/2024 9:30 a. 71 \$5,312.92

# **Great Commission Outreach Partners:**

World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Abundant Grace, West Chester.

**Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund:** The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

# Grace at a Glance

# Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320 Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com www.gracelutheranofeaton.com ~~ Like us on Facebook

# **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY October 13, 2024—Pentecost 21

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Education for all ages

10:30 a.m. New Member Inquiry class (Library—across from office)

6:00 p.m. Sunday S'mores @ the Fire Ring

Monday October 14

Pastor's Day Off

9:45 a.m. TOPS

6:30 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)

7:00 p.m. Phoebe Bible Study

Tuesday October 15-Office closed in afternoon

6:00 p.m. Men's Disciple Group (GLC) 7:00 p.m. Lakeside Fellowship (Schultz's)

Wednesday October 16 — Deadline to submit to The Grace Herald newsletter

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (FH)

6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday October 17

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting (Shelter)

Friday October 18

12:30 p.m. Bulletin Production

Saturday October 19

# In Our Prayers

After 4 weeks we will remove names from this list. If you would like to keep someone on the list, please note their name on the back of the "Attendance & Communion Registration" form.

# **URGENT PRAYER LIST:**

FOR HEALING:

**The Community of Springfield, Ohio:** (for the victims of the recent hurricane)

Rhonda Paige Atkinson: (Sister of Mindy Ramsey - diagnosed with Huntington's

Disease – she lives in Colorado)

**Phyllis Boaz:** (Cousin of Jan Pearce with health issues)

Kelly Coffman: (she is scheduled to see a surgeon on Oct. 16th)

**Amanda Dell:** (Rob & Suzie Dell's daughter going through testing & biopsies for a growth on the back of her tongue and her throat.)

**Jane Farish**: (Grand-mother of Veronica Forney & family)

Nick Flowers: (Step-son of Andy Proeschel—Prayers for health issues)

**Elaine Fudge:** (Recovering from knee surgery)

**Judy Hansen**: (Dear friend of Marti Good & Michael Good—Prayers for comfort & healing)

**Tiffany Ingram:** (Prayers as she begins taking a new medication)

**Amy Jackson:** (Prayers for healing & comfort)

Tina Leonard: (Daughter of Barb & Gerry Myers—Dealing with cancer)

Patty Lipps: (Recovering from a fall last weekend)

Kole Maggard: (Grand-son of friend of Nancy Childs. Kole is in the ICU.)

Karen & Daren Marshall: (As Daren deals with back issues & Karen deals with knee issues

**Aubrey Mitchell:** (14 yo cousin of Jeff Forney – Aubrey was in a very serious horseback riding accident which has left her with multiple internal injuries. Prayers are asked for the Twohig-Mitchell Family as they all work through this.)

Andy Proeschel: (As he awaits word of a double lung transplant.)

Jim Proeschel: (Paula Murray's brother—He will have knee surgery on 10/2)

Gordan Self: (Kelly Coffman's dad – prayers for complete healing)

*Iva-Laura Sherry:* (Kelly Coffman's mom-she fell and dislodged a screw in her neck-she will see a neurosurgeon this week.

**Dean & Mary Shetter:** (As Dean continues with different tests to determine how to treat his illness)

Jackie Steiner: (She is struggling with Huntington's Disease)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST ....Andy Proeschel, Jean Bailey, Wally & Jane Bowman, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Tim Lanthrop, Barb Goebel, Connie Coffman, Carmen Hasdorff, Ruth Meyer, Martha Grimme, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Susan Root, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Ruth Hardin, Jenifer Combs, Jean Bailey, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Maj. Love Hartman; Capt. John Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Alex Pollitt, Airman, U.S. Air. Force.

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# Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:

TODAY! Refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after worship. Adult Education will proceed after this time of Fellowship. All are welcome!

# **Adult Bible Studies (during the week)**

- The Phoebe Women's Bible Study. They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the <u>2nd Monday of each month</u>. They have begun a study called <u>The Fitting Room: Putting on the Character of Christ</u>. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: <u>Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com</u>).
- On the **Second and the Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, Wine & the Word** and the **Bible Study "Lakeside Fellowship"** (at the home of Karen & Dan Schultz—in Lakengren).
  - \* Wine & The Word meets at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Carol Perry). They have been viewing the Third season of *The Chosen* and discussing it afterwards. If you would like to join them, please contact Carol at 937-456-6683 or cbperry122@embarqmail.com
  - \* Lakeside Fellowship (at the Lakengren home of Dan & Karen Schultz) begins at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to join this group, please contact Karen/Dan Schultz at 419-890-7965 or dkschultz52@yahoo.com.
    In OCTOBER LF is meeting on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays (10/1 & 10/15)!! They will return to the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in November.
- The <u>Wednesday</u> Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room off of the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying the Book of *Lamentations*.

These studies are open to <u>any</u> member <u>and our friends</u>. <u>No prior Bible study background is needed</u>. Please bring your Bible.

# North American Lutheran Church (Disaster Response) 2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309 PMB 409 Bedford, TX 76021-4703

# **Collection Points**

# St. John Lutheran Church

740 N. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677 Call the church at 704-873-0222

# **Advent Lutheran Church**

230 Oak Grove Rd., Kings Mountain, NC 28086 Call the church at 704-750-0171 to make deliveries

# **NALC Disaster Warehouse**

16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724 Call Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 to make deliveries.

# Messages from Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator October 4, 2024

What a gift Zoom is, as it enables people to do important business more effectively than on a phone call. The NALC Disaster Response Task Force has been meeting on Zoom regularly.

New needs keep arising from Hurricane Helene. Today we found out that volunteers/workers are being <u>stung</u> a lot by bees and wasps as they are doing debris removal. *Benadrul to the rescue!* 

A big plea from today's meeting is for <a href="https://example.com/hay/feed for livestock">hay/feed for livestock</a>. Reserves of hay were destroyed in the storms. Farmers and others are facing having to put down livestock and horses because they have nothing to feed them. If you know anyone who grows hay, check with them if they might have some to donate. Let me know if you find available hay and I'll help you with a contact and to discuss transporting the hay. This is going to be a need through the winter months since those reserves are gone!

# October 8, 2024

Merciful God, Your children are still struggling from 'Helene', and your creation is full of water left by 'Helene'. Holy Spirit calm the winds that are fiercely whipping around in the Gulf. Protect those in the path of 'Milton', and enable all people to care for one another in the midst of this storm. Energize our volunteers and equip them with your compassion and love. Fill us with all we need to care for our brothers and sisters; and above all, Gracious God, calm Your creation and minimize the storm's impact. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus The Christ. Amen.

# THE NALC DISASTER RESPONSE FACEBOOK PAGE ...

As we continue praying for and supporting the NALC's disaster response, the Facebook page continues to be a good source of updated information. The address is: https://www.facebook.com/groups/373520556049693.



# KIT PACKING LIST

\* REVISED JULY 2024

# Cleaning Buckets

1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or smaller) 2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil)

1 roll paper towels

2 rags

Comet or scouring cleanser

Pine Sol or liquid cleaner

scrub brush

gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred

rubber (reusable, i.e. latex, dishwashing type)

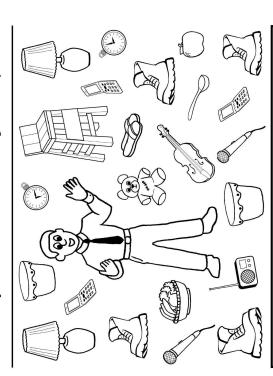
leather

cotton

# Children's Worship Pages

This young man has much more stuff than he needs. He even has two of some things!

Circle any "extra" items that he could give to the poor.



**Teacher** 

What do you find hard to share? Draw it here:

and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and come, follow me." (Mark 10:21)

He wants us to use these talents for a good purpose! God has given each of us special talents and gifts.













Draw a picture of yourself doing work that serves God.

> interesting to you: mark by the jobs that sound most Make a check Look at the list below.

Business person Veterinarian Police officer Hair dresser Mail carrier Fire fighter Mechanic Musician Dentist Pastor Nurse Parent Writer Artist Pilot

yes, establish the work of our hands!" (Psalm 90:17) "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;

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# Listening for the Promise

**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL** 

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23) - October 13, 2024

"And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

-Mark 10:21-

On one of the many retreats that I've been blessed to lead, I had the group do the trust fall. For those who don't know what this is, the group lines up in two rows facing each other holding the hands of the person across from them. One person climbs up on an elevated platform such as a picnic table or a tree stump. Facing away from the group, the person with arms crossed falls backward into the waiting arms of the group who catches him. Well, there was one occasion where that didn't happen. I was dropped.

While I was not hurt, I certainly was a bit shocked. Shocked is certainly the correct word when we read the reaction to the rich young man who asks how he might gain eternal life. Now Jesus doesn't challenge the rich man's statement that he has kept the commandments. We could certainly question that, as it is impossible for us to totally keep the commandments. Jesus does ask him about where this rich man places his trust.

In telling the man to sell all that he has and give it to the poor, Jesus is telling him to divest of all that has meaning in this earthly life. The rich man had become a servant of his own wealth. "You cannot serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

Being a disciple of Jesus is to trust first and foremost in God's only Son. To place our eternal well-being in our finances, our families, our government, our achievements, our merit, or anything else that we call our own is to place our trust in idols, in whom we will only find ourselves dropped. Jesus reminds us directly that our salvation is in him alone. "For with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27b).

That which God has given us is his from the very beginning. As followers of Jesus, let us use what God has given us not as a means of comforting ourselves, but serving the needs of our neighbor. In so doing, we follow the one who came among us not to be served but to serve: Jesus, the Christ.

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