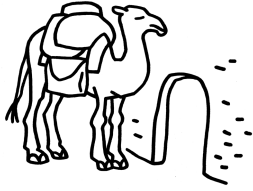


**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 10, 2021**



The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

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.

Hymn "Gather Us In"

ELW 532

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

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: AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MARK 10: 17-31

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

Homily The Rev. Kurt S. Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as is 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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Paul Bouman

Altar Flowers given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

Sanctuary Candle given in memory of Judy Sauder by the congregation.

NOTE – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Sundays available in October are 10/10, 10/17 & 10/31.



Michael A. Crowther
Margaret Elser
Clyde Showalter
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Josie Reitz

Alverta Showalter
Clarice Haws
Pastor Jim Miller
Mary Ann Weitzel
Ella Shirk

Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Family of Judy Sauder
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Clair Sweigart
Janice Moyer Kelly
Josie Reitz
Margaret Elser
Pastor Jim Miller
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)

Hunter Leisey
Jean Wolf
Ashton Faust
John Frantz
Edgar Gress
Joan Long
Debbie Myers
Marie McQuate



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS – Our distribution of food continues on an ongoing basis. We have a need currently for **canned fruit, canned soup, toilet paper** (individually wrapped) and Kleenex.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

FLOWER DELIVERY –The church needs volunteers to deliver flowers to our sick and shut-ins after our worship service each Sunday. The church secretary, Brenda, will coordinate this effort for the worship team. Please call the church or email Brenda at secretary@swamplutheran.org if you are willing to be part of a rotating group of

volunteers for this vital outreach. This will begin on September 12th. *Thank you for volunteering!*

50th ANNIVERSARIES - The church would like to recognize those who are celebrating 50+ wedding anniversaries or 50th anniversary of membership. Please notify the church office by email at secretary@swamplutheran.org or by phone at 717-336-2849 if you fall into one of these categories.

POINSETTIAS and CYCLAMENS

It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias and cyclamens. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Pricing will not be known until sometime in October. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions. The following information needs to be provided.



NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Poinsettias RED _____ WHITE _____

Cyclamens RED _____ WHITE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

GIFT CARDS AND PREPAID CARDS for the holidays are now available. Order forms will be at the front door. Orders will be due on Sunday, November 14 so that we have enough time to receive cards before the holidays. Any questions, call Missy Regan at 717-314-5658.



CELEBRATION of PASTOR KURT AND LOIS STRAUSE – On Sunday, October 24, Pastor Strause will preach his last sermon as our Interim Pastor. After church, at 9:30AM we will have a celebration of thanksgiving in the Social Hall. The adult Sunday School will be cancelled that week. The children will be brought over briefly but then will return to their classrooms. Plan on joining us to celebrate, acknowledge and express gratitude for God's work through this couple during our church transition.



This Week in the Parish (October 11 – October 17)

Monday	6:00PM 7:30PM	PACK 95 Den Meeting Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday	1:00 – 5:00PM 7:00PM	Food Distribution Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:30AM 9:30AM	Worship Sunday School

