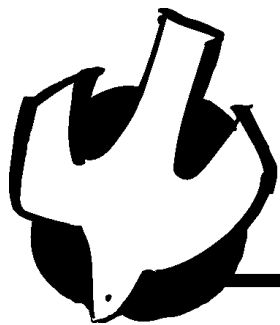


**WHAT SEEMS TO HELP IN LIFE
FAILS IN DEATH;
WHAT SEEMS TO FAIL IN LIFE
HELPS IN DEATH**



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 16 and 17, 2021

Today's focus: *What seems to help in life fails in death; what seems to fail in life helps in death.* Last week we learned the hard truth that while money can help make life easier in some ways, it cannot bring true happiness and fulfillment. This week we see that as much as money lets us down in life, its ultimate failure to deliver on its promises happens in death. Those who live with hearts filled with love for money and void of love for God will receive the only eternity that money can buy: one void of God and filled with pain. Though we might be fooled into thinking money helps in life, it will certainly fail us in death. Conversely, that which seems to offer little help in life will never fail us in death. The best example of this is the gospel. Those who hear and heed the Scriptures often appear to receive little benefit in life. Living by God's Word doesn't make life easier. In fact, faithfully following Christ often means a more challenging life, one filled with crosses and self-denial. Great wealth gains you the admiration and respect of the world. Being true to Scripture is more likely to gain you scorn and ridicule. Yet those who find the help they need in God rather than in money will never be disappointed. In death they will receive a reward that dwarfs even the best things money can buy.

Pre-service

Saturday 5:30pm: "Abide with Me" (by W.H. Monk, arr. by Valerie Floeter)

Saxophone: Riley Bowditch

Accompanist: Jan Henriksen

Sunday 10:30am: "God of the Ages" (arr. by Ruth Coleman)

Violin: Lilliana Jaeger

Accompanist: Jan Henriksen

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

525 63rd Street, Downers Grove

630-852-1519

www.gsdg.org

CURRENT SERIES THEME: *HARD TRUTH*

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (*Luke 13:22*). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. If you expect Jesus to use these final teaching opportunities to share happy thoughts, you don’t know him well. With a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we do not want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he challenges conventional wisdom. He reverses the normal and natural order of things. This should not surprise us, considering this Teacher’s life and work are the opposite of what one would expect.

When the truth is hard to hear, the first temptation is to deny it. We cannot do that with Jesus’ teaching, for he never lies. When the truth is hard to hear, the second temptation is to simply ignore it. To do that with Jesus is to court eternal death. Thus, Jesus’ words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For his Word, though it contains hard truth, gives eternal life.

September 4/5

We want peace, but God’s Word divides

Pentecost 15

September 11/12

The first will be last; the last will be first

Pentecost 16

September 18/19

**The humble will be exalted;
the exalted will be humbled**

Pentecost 17

September 25/26

Put down what you love; pick up what you loath

Pentecost 18

October 2/3

The found are left; the lost are found

Pentecost 19

October 9/10

**Serve God with money;
you can’t serve God and money**

Pentecost 20

October 16/17

***What seems to help in life fails in death;
what seems to fail in life helps in death***

Pentecost 21

We Come into the Presence of God

Musical Introduction *(This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.)*

Grades 1-4: “Because We Love Him”

*We give because we love Him, we give because we care.
We give because He gave us these gracious gifts to share.
He gave himself completely, a willing sacrifice,
And when we give to others, we give ourselves to Christ.*

*God does not need assistance to carry out His will.
Whatever He desires, He also can fulfill.
And yet He gives believers the opportunity,
To show our faith is living, and giving cheerfully.*

*We give because we love Him, we give because we care.
We give because He gave us these gracious gifts to share.
He gave himself completely, a willing sacrifice,
And when we give to others, we give ourselves to Christ.*

By Mary Dorn Lippert. ©1990 Mary Dorn Lippert. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Confession and Absolution

Minister: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Congregation: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: #467, verses 1-3 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”



1 May the mind of Christ my Sav - ior Live in
 2 May the Word of God dwell rich - ly In my
 3 May the peace of God my Fa - ther Rule my

me from day to day, By his love and
 heart from hour to hour, So that all may
 life in ev - 'ry - thing, That I may be

pow'r in - spir - ing All I do or say.
 see I tri - umph On - ly through his pow'r.
 calm to com - fort Sick and sor - row - ing.

Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1859–1928, alt.

Tune: ST. LEONARD'S (87 85) A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1891–1953.

We Listen

First Reading: Amos 6:1-7

- ¹Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,
and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
you notable men of the foremost nation,
to whom the people of Israel come!
- ²Go to Kalneh and look at it;
go from there to great Hamath,
and then go down to Gath in Philistia.
Are they better off than your two kingdoms?
Is their land larger than yours?
- ³You put off the day of disaster
and bring near a reign of terror.
- ⁴You lie on beds adorned with ivory
and lounge on your couches.
You dine on choice lambs
and fattened calves.
- ⁵You strum away on your harps like David
and improvise on musical instruments.
- ⁶You drink wine by the bowlful
and use the finest lotions,
but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.
- ⁷Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile;
your feasting and lounging will end.



Psalm 146 (*Pastor will sing the verses; the congregation is invited to sing the Refrains and the Glory be to the Father.*)

Refrain



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

Psalm tone



Praise the LORD, O my soul.*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,*

in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

Refrain

The LORD gives food to the hungry,*

the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind, *

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast*,

and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.*

He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Lynn Trapp. ©1989 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-6

¹Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ²Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

⁴Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

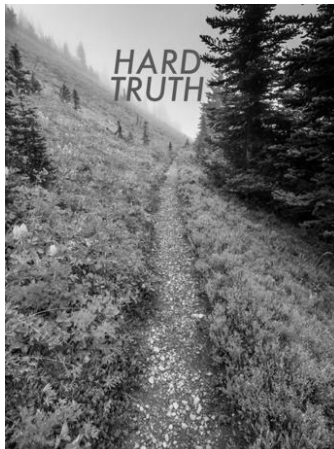
²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”



Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: #466 "Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose"



1 Though thought - less thou - sands choose the road
 2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
 3 Christ is my ev - er - last - ing all.
 4 Soon will the Lord, my life, ap - pear;
 5 Soon will the saints in glo - ry meet,

That leads the soul a - way from God,
 From him my life, my all, re - ceive,
 To him I look; on him I call.
 Soon shall I end my tri - als here,
 Soon walk through ev - 'ry gold - en street

This hap - pi - ness, dear Lord, be mine;
 To him de - vote my fleet - ing hours,
 He will my ev - 'ry want sup - ply
 Leave sin and sor - row, death and pain.
 And sing on ev - 'ry bliss - ful plain,

To live and die en - tire - ly thine.
 Serve him a - lone with all my pow'rs.
 In time and through e - ter - ni - ty.
 To live is Christ; to die is gain.
 "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

Text: Joseph Hoskins, 1745-88, alt.

Tune: WAREHAM (LM) William Knapp, 1698-1768, alt.

Sermon

We Respond

Offering *(In an effort to maintain a safe social distance, please place your offerings in the provided plate when exiting the sanctuary.)*

If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. We do not want you to think that God or our congregation is soliciting funds from you. You enrich us simply by being here.)

Prayer of the Church

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.**

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #467, verses 4-6 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

**May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing—
This is victory!**

**May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.**

**May his spirit live within me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only him.**

It is the mission of



Good Shepherd

to

Seek the Lost
Feed the Flock and
Serve our Savior



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.

Serving in Worship

Pastor: Jon Bergemann
Organist: Jan Henriksen
Cantors (Saturday): Debi Vose and
Kristina John
Ushers: Joseph Abegg, Todd Oard,
and Gary Henriksen
AV Team: Bob Reichert, Joe Garetto,
Kristen Reynolds, and
Greg Busse

Contact Information

Pastor Jon Bergemann
Office: 630.852.1519
Email: pastor.bergemann@gsdg.org

Church Secretary Jennifer Reynolds
Church office: 630.852.1519
School office: 630.852.5081
Cell phone: 630.399.3648
Office Email: office@gsdg.org



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN ACADEMY

To know, to grow, and to show.



Everyone is welcome to join us for BLAST (Believe, Learn and Seek Truth), our Sunday morning Children's Ministry. We begin each Sunday at 9:15a in the library at the end of the school hallway. Email BLAST@gsdg.org

Acknowledgements

Christian Worship and Christian Worship Supplement hymns, liturgies, and Psalms reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A717189 and/or CCLI #11281297. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.® NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.