

*Third Sunday of End Time—Saint Triumphant*



**TODAY'S FOCUS:**

*“Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb.”*

12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of November in the year of our LORD 2020

## GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

10611 Hwy 13 South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, USA 54494

[www.1GOODSHEPHERD.ORG](http://www.1GOODSHEPHERD.ORG)

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

*Whether you have been with us for years, or if this is your first time visiting, we extend a warm welcome in the name of Jesus! Jesus gathered us to bless us with His Word, and then send us from this place renewed by the message of God's love.*

### WELCOMING HYMN

#533cw

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

### INVOCATION, CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION

*LEADER:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**CHILDREN & ADULTS: Amen.**

L: 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.

**C: 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.**

L: Christ has died. Christ is 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. Amen.

L: 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.**

L: 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.**

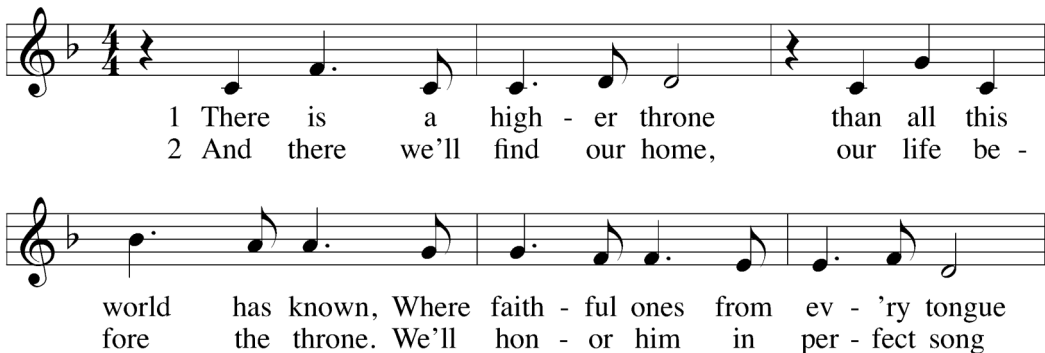
M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

**C: Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

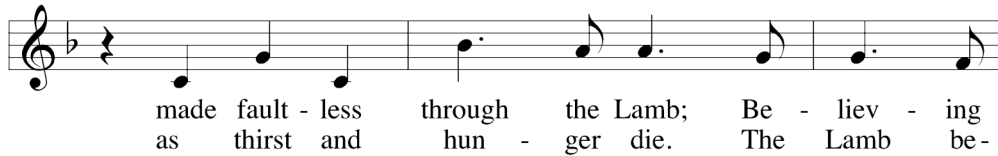
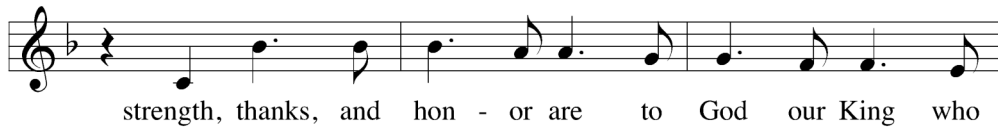
#727cws

### There Is a Higher Throne



1 There is a high - er throne than all this  
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be -

world has known, Where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue  
fore the throne. We'll hon - or him in per - fect song

*Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY****BIBLE READING:**

EZEKIEL 37:15-28

**BIBLE READING:**

PSALM 3 CWS

Cantors will sing the first refrain, the congregation will sing all remaining refrains  
cantors will sing all the verses

*Refrain**Psalm Tone*

O LORD, how many are my foes!  
How many rise up against me!  
Many are saying of me,  
"God will not deliver him."

But you are a shield around me, O LORD;  
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.  
To the LORD I cry aloud,  
and he answers me from his holy hill.

*Refrain*

I lie down and sleep;  
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.  
I will not fear the tens of thousands  
drawn up against me on ev'ry side.

Arise, O LORD!  
Deliver me, O my God!  
From the LORD comes deliverance.  
May your blessing be on your people.

**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*

**BIBLE READING:**

MATTHEW 25:1–13

**BIBLE READING:**

REVELATION 19:1–9

**VICTORY SONG OF THE DAY**

#213CW

Forever with the Lord

***INSTRUCTION FROM GOD'S WORD***

MATTHEW 25:1-13

*IS THERE OIL IN YOUR LAMP?***CONFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH —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.****OFFERING ANTHEM:**

#484CW stanza 3

**Gracious Lord, accept our service For the sake of Christ, Your Son;****Lo, our hope abides now only In the righteousness He won.****Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to comfort and restore****Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, Praising you forevermore.**

Dear members and friends of Good Shepherd's family of faith, during this time, we give offerings for God's ministries. Out of love God freely gives us all; and God's people every day respond the same way: out of love, not forced. Every week we freely return gifts to Him. None of it is forced. Our giving flows from God's love. So, we thank God our Father, and we thank you, for your gifts for His use. If you are visiting Good Shepherd and are moved to give a gift to our ministries, thank you.

Guests are encourage to sign the WELCOME Card located in the pew rack and return it to an offering basket in the narthex as you leave.

## PRAYERS

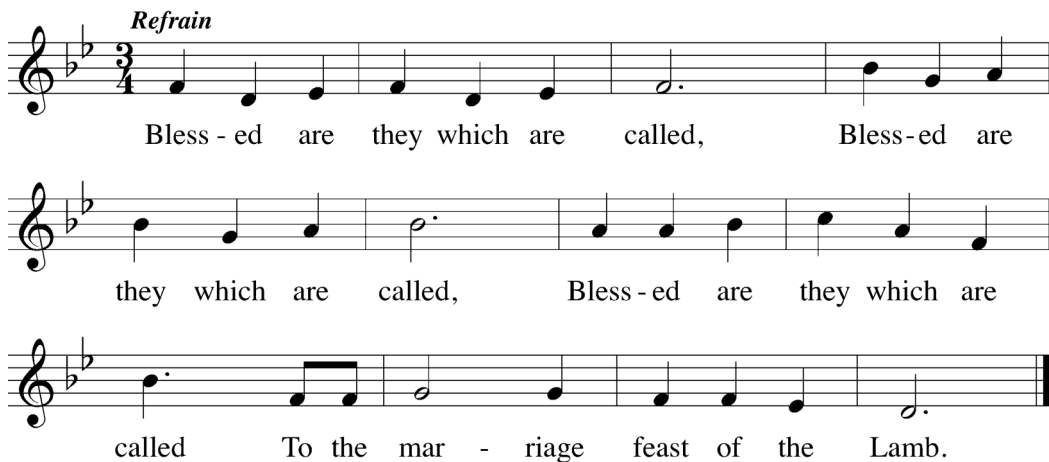
### LORD'S PRAYER

### ANTHEM: #730cws Blessed Are They

Duet will sing the refrain and the first 2 verses.

The congregation will sing all remaining verses and refrains.

*Refrain*



Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless-ed are  
 they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are  
 called To the mar - riage feast of the Lamb.





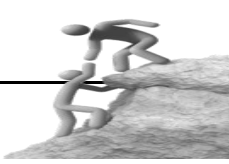


# WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

## CARE ABOUT ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST

If you know of someone who would like to be added to our current prayer list please contact one of our pastors. Thank You!

GOOD SHEPHERD Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
10611 Hwy 13 South Wisconsin Rapids, WI, USA  
Educator & Principal: Donna L.Tullberg | Pastors: Paul A.Tullberg | John T. Melke

<b>Rose &amp; Tom Adams</b> <b>Erik &amp; Leah Alair</b> (1st yr Seminary student)	<b>Dr. Roger Newman</b>	<b>ONLINE FAMILY OF FAITH</b>
<b>Ron &amp; Diane Bannerman</b> <b>Julie Bunt</b> <b>Roger Beyer</b>  <b>Pauline Cattanach</b> <b>Mary Cline</b> <b>Elaine Craig</b>	<b>Sam &amp; Becky Piper</b> <b>Violet Powell</b>  <b>Elliot Przybylski</b> (son of Stacey Berdan and Andrew Przybylski)	<b>Dr. Cheli &amp; DeeDee Marichal &amp; Family</b> – Puerto Rico, FL <b>Dyde</b> in France <b>Family of Jennifer Koniar</b> <b>Forrest &amp; Elizabeth</b> in CA
<b>Dave &amp; Jill</b>  <b>Mandy Ehlke</b>  <b>John Estlund</b> <b>Family of Professor Deutschlander</b>	<b>Rodney &amp; mother, Ruth</b>  <b>Pat &amp; Al Rozelle</b>  <b>Sarah Allerdig's Grandma Alberta Schroeder</b>	<b>Pat Hunziker</b> in Indiana <b>Janet</b> in CA <b>Junita</b> in Hong Kong <b>Kristin</b> in USA <b>Markka</b> , Joanne Farrington's daughter
<b>Family of Jackie Ryun</b> <b>Family of Elton Zuege</b> <b>Pastor Robert Hartman</b>	<b>David Seidler</b> <b>Lorna Skicki</b>	<b>Melissa</b> in England <b>Pastor Nathan Schulte</b> in Ecuador
<b>Connie Heitl</b> <b>Karen Heiman</b> <b>Ben Holberg</b> <b>Sean Jenkins</b> in TN <b>Shirley Johnson</b>	<b>Loren Tullberg</b>  <b>Al Weiland</b> <b>Jerry Wiessinger</b> <b>Pastor Mike Wolff</b>	<b>Pastor Philip &amp; Kathryn Strackbein</b> in Ecuador  <b>Rev. Dr. Karl &amp; Karen Kuenzel</b> -in Ecuador
<b>Katie &amp; Lily</b> <b>Baby Oliver Kizewski</b>  <b>Elmer Loechler</b>		<b>Dan Raney</b> in IL <b>Robert</b> in Ecuador <b>Dr.Shannon Straszewski</b> (The Kuenzel's niece) <b>Sonia</b> in India
<b>Donna Marks, Jerry's wife</b> <b>Jon Mittelsteadt</b>		<b>Syed Gul</b> in Pakistan <b>Gloria Walters</b> in New York

# Ladies Group Annual Holiday Bakery!

For those that purchase items, the Ladies will have  
drive-thru pickup on Saturday, November 21  
and pick-up in the church building  
immediately after church on Sunday, November 22.

## Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Nov 15 John Haase Dave Ryun

Nov 18 Jennifer Roberts

Nov 19 Jenna Kammueler Ed Tesch

Nov 21 Drew Mangler (IA)

### Wedding Anniversaries

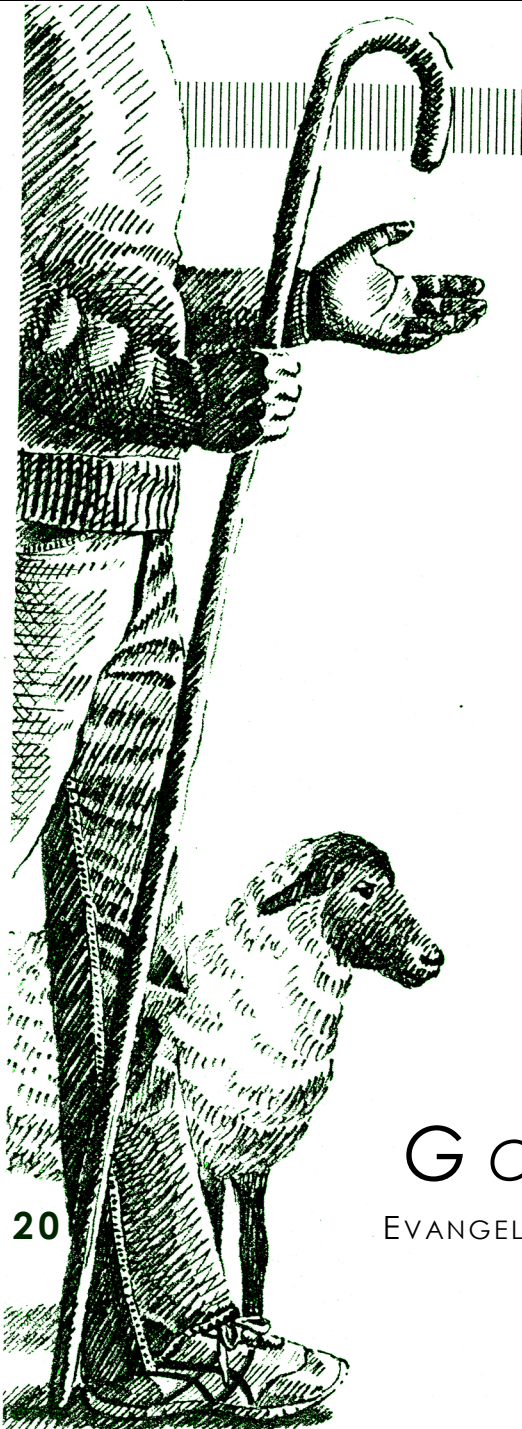
Nov 19 Dwight & Jane Gilbert

## OUR WEEK WITH JESUS AT A GLANCE

- 11/15 **SUNDAY** 9:00 am Worship  
Remote **Sunday School for Families Online**  
(attend at any time)  
2:00 pm Cable TV Rebroadcast of Last Sunday's Service  
Solarus Ch 3 & Spectrum Ch 985
- 11/16 **Monday** 11:00 am "Coffee with Christ" at Grace's Restaurant WR  
1:30 pm Ladies Group
- 11/18 **Wednesday** 2:00 pm Cable TV Rebroadcast of This Week's  
Sunday Service  
Solarus Ch 3 & Spectrum Ch 985
- 11/19 **Thursday** 7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion In person and online!
- 11/21 **Saturday** 1-3 pm **Drive Thru Pick Up of Baked Goods from Ladies Group**

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, USA  
Educator/Principal: Donna L. Tullberg | Pastors: Paul A. Tullberg John Melke  
I GoodShepherdChurch@gmail.com

Thus says the Lord, "In quietness and confidence is your strength"—Isaiah 30:15



# Daily 5 With Luther

GOOD SHEPHERD

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, USA

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*Serving all people with the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ*

**Educator-Principal Donna L. Tullberg  
Pastors Paul A. Tullberg; John T. Melke**

## November 1

### I have given them Your Word. John 17:14a.



In these words Jesus again indicates what goodness the disciples shall experience in the world. Jesus wants believers to see how much they will stand in need of His support packed into the Word. Jesus wants believers to grasp the joy which are given to us concerning Christ.

And Jesus more fully explains that which He had explained earlier. The Word which Christ has given them is the Word of the Father. Jesus calls it "Your Word". The Word is given so that they might never desire or seek any other false or lesser champion.

God desires us to diligently work to magnify His Word, love it, and prize it as the greatest treasure we have on earth. We are to treasure it as given to us as a joy and consolation in the face of any and all adversities.

"There is no better treasure that I can give them but the Word which I received from You. I brought Your Word down from heaven with Me. This Word I have given to them. I have taught it to them with such diligence because I wish them to feel in their hearts that they have My solid, perfect, and eternal joy with them.

I want them to be enabled to proclaim after My death: "Here I have the Word of Christ, my LORD. Yes, here is the Word of His Omnipotent Father. By trusting and keeping this Word I am sure that no power on earth, nor any gates of hell, can hurt Me. Why?

The answer is that Christ holds me in His omnipotent hand. Christ defends me with His paternal protection. The violence of no one can ever pluck me from Christ's hand.

Christ accompanies His Word with His love. God has determined to keep His Word in all things. Christ will, by the same pow-

er, defend and protect all those who desire and love it. And this is wholly necessary, for we poor creatures greatly need this protection.

*He lives to bless me with His love, He lives to plead for me above,  
He lives my hungry soul to feed, He lives to help in time of need.*

## November 2

**And the world has hated them. John 17:14b.**



Here our character and the true mark of Christians are identified descriptively. These marks set apart followers of Christ from the world. If you desire to be a disciple of Christ, if you love His Word, then do not be ashamed of this character. Be content to have the world be your enemy.

For you will find that, it will not be strangers, wicked and abandoned men only who are your enemies. But it will be your best and most intimate friends who are your enemies. Honorable and worthy people, and even men revered and respected by the world for their sanctity who shall be your enemies.

These are the ones that will turn against you. They plot your destruction. Or these will malign you and lay snares for you from every quadrant. And yet there will be nothing of which they can accuse you. There will be nothing in which they can lay against your charge.

There will be no vice for which they can condemn you. For you have neither defrauded anyone, or hurt, or in any way injured another. Instead you, dear Christian, only love, hold, cherish, confess, and preach the Word of Christ.

The world knows how to wink at and excuse all crimes. The world boasts in pardoning and covering with a good approval all manner of wickedness. The world knows how to extend its generosity and

goodwill to all kinds of abominations and darkness. The world opens its doors wide with false toleration, in selfish pity, and affords some feigned respite and false glory to its members.

But Christians? No! Christians the earth cannot endure. The one who persecutes, condemns, and punishes them with death is thought to be endowed with the most exalted virtues. With such dark and twisted thinking the world lays claim that such a wicked one does God the highest service by attacking and harming Christians. As a bonus, one's hatred against Christians is touted as benefiting his country.

So it happens just as Christ teaches in John, chapter 16. Therefore these words are most expressive: *"The world has hated them"*. The world has nothing else to do but to persecute Christians with its hatred.

*Be of good cheer; your cause belongs to Him who can avenge your wrongs; leave it to Him, our Lord. Though hidden yet from mortal eyes. His Gideon shall for you arise, uphold you and His Word.*

## November 3

**Because they are not of the world,  
even as I am not of the world.**

**John 17:14c**

★ ★ ★

"In the catalogue of those whom the world hates, I also am to be numbered, says Jesus. In fact I AM to be put first on that list. And therefore My disciples will not have a better lot than I had. Think: why is that? If they called the Master of the house Beelzebub, shall they pay more respect to His disciples and to the members of His household?"

"But the world, as it appears to itself, has invented *"just"* causes for persecuting the Christian with hatred. When I AM forced to expose

the world's blindness and misery, I AM out of favor with it. When I must reprove the folly of the world's wisdom and external show of holiness, I AM unwanted and despised."

"This world places their trust in false wisdom and pretend kindnesses. Without true faith in Me, these matters are counted as nothing before God. My design is not to hurt them, or to do them any injury as they claim. Rather I desire to bring them real help. I want to rescue their discouraged and captive souls from the jaws of the devil. My desire is to lead them to God."

"This the devil cannot bear. Thus the devil so powerfully storms and rages. The evil one stirs up and exasperates their minds against Me and My Word. And the world cannot leave behind its blindness and presumption. The world cannot patiently endure to have its deeds and whole life be exposed as worthless and condemned."

"Therefore," says Christ, "*I have given them Your Word.*" In the Word of the living God My believers shall rejoice and delight. Although all shame and contempt empties from the world onto them, with a gladdened mind they may despise all this world's favor. They look upon the world's applause and consider it vapid, empty.

They may even avoid and shun such recognition by all possible means. They desire to have nothing to do with this world's favor and false glories. They will still be safe and rejoice in Your Word.

*O little flock, fear not the foe who madly seeks your overthrow; dread not his rage and power. What though your courage sometimes faints, his seeming triumph o'er God's saints lasts but a little hour.*

**November 4**

**I do not ask You to take them out of the world.**

**John 17:15a**

★ ★ ★

"I do not pray that they might go with Me out of the world. Not a few things remain to be accomplished by Me through them. They shall extend My kingdom. They shall make My flock more numerous. They have received the living Word from Me."

"My plan and purposes will not permit Me to remain longer in the world. There are many yet to be converted, to be brought, through their Word, to believe on Me.

"Therefore, I do not pray that You take them out of the world. The world cannot tolerate their presence. My followers, on the other hand, have had enough of the world and are disgusted by it. And yet, this is the reason why Christians, and especially ministers, desire a longer life. To proclaim Your Word and bring life to the lost."

Still, the devil and the world are the Christians' greatest enemies. They afflict us with every kind of plague. The ingratitude and contempt of nasty men is troubling. Their blasphemy is horrible. Their persecution of the Word of God is filled with spite.

Nothing would seem more desirable to believers than if God should take us out of the world at our very first moments of faith! This would prevent us from being compelled to see and hear such wickedness, ingratitude and blasphemy against the Most High.

Why, then, should this present situation continue? Answer: There shall always be a small gathering who are daily in jeopardy in multiple ways. We must watch and work to the end. We pray that these afflicted ones are not torn away from the Gospel of everlasting life. We dare not omit that soul-care as long as we live.

It is, in truth, a difficult and demanding task. It required all our efforts, devotion, and diligence, to preserve the Word among a few.

*Who shall to Israel's outcast race from Zion bring salvation?  
God will Himself at length show grace and loose the captive nation?  
That will He do by Christ their King;  
Let Jacob then be glad and sing, and Israel be joyful.*



**November 5**

**But to keep them from the evil one.**

**John 17:15b**

★ ★ ★

We must endure afflictions and perils in the world for the Word's sake. Tyrants and sects will assail followers of Christ on all sides. The one attacks with false doctrines, the other with all the bitterness of persecution. Between the two of them they leave no stone unturned. Their hellish goal is that the Word may be torn from us.

We surely live surrounded with a powerful an army of devils. We are like one poor lost solitary sheep in the midst of wolves. Or as the Lord suggests through His apostle Peter, we live in the middle of the most furious and roaring lions. The wicked, like hungry animals, are all gnashing their teeth at us. The wicked are ready to grind us to pieces with their jaws and to swallow us up whole.

And, tell me, who is it that preserves us in such a perilous state of things?

Who enables followers of Christ to stand firm in the midst of such a multitude of the most deadly and cruel enemies?

Who is it that keeps us from being cast down in our minds?

Who keeps us from despairing every moment and losing both the Word and faith together?

Who is it that at such times as these defends us against the power of these tyrants?

Who guards us against the deep-rooted evil and cruelty of the devil?

No human power or wisdom has protected us. The Guardian of our safety sits in heaven. The Father is mindful of this prayer. He says: *My Christ once prayed for them. For this reason alone they are to be kept and defended by Me.*

And this is our trust, protection, and defense. This is the truth that prevents our enemies from fulfilling the darkened desires of their mind in afflicting us.

Even though they explode with the overwhelming rage of their false and furious mind, they shall fail. Even though they should persecute believers in Jesus till their minds are worn out, God will surely rescue us from their teeth.

*Though united world and devil, all their power can no more  
Do than mock and cavil. Let derision now employ them,  
Christ e'en here will appear and 'fore all destroy them.*

## November 6

**They are not of the world, even as I AM not of the world.**

**John 17:16**

★ ★ ★

This is that on which our whole consolation rests. And it is precisely for this reason that He repeats it so many times! By such passionate repetition Christ intends to touch the hearts and thoughts of His disciples.

Christ says "I hear you feel and complain that you must yet remain in the world. Christ says I know this world cannot tolerate you and burdens you with every evil. Christ says I see you are every hour in peril of your salvation. Christ reminds us, *I know this full well.* "

"But let this support effectively comfort you: this world will never have power over you. You will never be left in their hands. You are not of this world. You belong to the Father, to My Father."

Take of the world an eternal farewell. They all belong to their own god, the devil. For, even in the midst of your afflictions from a raging hate-filled world, you shall have a sure protection. The world has no inkling that you are being so well-guarded.

And when God shall see that the time is right, He shall deliver you. The Lord Himself shall take you out of the way of the destruction that shall surely overwhelm the wicked.

*Satan, I defy Thee; Death, I now decry Thee; Fear, I bid thee cease! World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace. God's great power guards every hour; Earth and all its depths adore Him, silent bow before Him.*

## November 7 Sanctify them in the truth.

John 17:17a

★ ★ ★

Jesus here presses still one thing more; yet all that He asks pertains to the Word only. He does *not* say: If it is Your will to defend them from afflictions, then cause them to run away into some desert, or to hide themselves in some monastery.

Rather Jesus boldly says: Defend them. Let them remain set apart for Your service, sanctified through and through. Defend them through truth. Your Word is the truth and pure sanctification.

What the devil aims at with his might is to introduce false teachings by the leaders of his sects. He especially works to promote any false doctrine which carries with it the greatest show and the most plausible appearance of truth and holiness.

Satan rarely attacks us head-on with temptations to gross and fleshly sins. He knows all such endeavors would be useless. He would gain no victory at all by doing that.

But Satan sees our efforts and endeavors are directed toward the being holy. Therefore the wicked one **first** sets up a *pretend* holiness before us. **Next** the devil supplies people with help in the acquiring of that false notion. And **then** with such splendor does the devil adorn

and set off this empty holiness that no human power can resist its appeal. His purpose is to deceive and capture souls by the appeal of false teachings, imagining the false to be factual, the counterfeit to be real.

Therefore without pause we must strive against false holiness. Jesus prays: *O dearest Father, defend them from all outward show of holiness, and sanctify them in the truth.* What does it mean to be sanctified in the truth? The Holy Spirit reveals through Paul in His Epistle to the Ephesians, chapter 4 as *"being created in righteousness and holiness of the truth"*.

Christ, and His apostle Paul, say that there are many who are praised and honored for their so-called holiness. But Jesus reveals their holiness is all an outward show.

*Fictions they teach with cunning art, and lies of man's invention; not grounded on God's Word, their heart breeds naught but strange dissension; one chooses this, another that, untold division they create though saint-like in appearance.*

**November 8**  
**Your Word is truth.**  
**John 17:17b**

★ ★ ★

You want and need to know for a certainty and reliably what true and real holiness is. Why? So that you may be able to distinguish real holiness from all others deceptions. Therefore look at the Word only. Do not permit yourself to be deceived by any false show.

For the Word of God is a true touchstone. The Word distinguishes and discovers real holiness. The Word alone truly sanctifies. Whatever is not of the Word, or to be proved by the Word, is not holiness. If it is not

of the Word it is deception, profanity, frivolity, and a thing of no substance.

We are to hear the Word from the mouth of Christ only. The one that hears and believes His Word has rightly the truth of God which sanctifies, without any hypocritical show.

For as you believe His Word, then you need no hope or constant confidence in your own reason and wisdom. Trust in the Word and not in your own strength and works. Real humility always follows where there is real faith in the real God and His Word. True patience and genuine love for fellow believers always follows on honest humility.

You will know the tree by its fruits. You will know who has and holds the Word of Christ. True holiness is nothing else but a true faith in the Word of Christ. The Father first freely gives His Word from which all kinds of good fruits proceed.

We openly and freely confess before the whole world, and in the face of all devils and sects, that there is no life, no good works, no spiritual and no sublime thoughts, no self-forced devotion that can make men saints in the eyes of God. In a word, there is nothing in us according to our sinful nature from which holiness can proceed.

*Oh, for a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by many a foe;  
That will not tremble on the brink of poverty or woe.*

**November 9**  
**As You sent Me into the world,**  
**I also have sent them into the world.**

**John 17:18**

★ ★ ★

In these words you hear why Christ prays the Father to sanctify His believers. Christ wants to set them apart and send them forth into

the world to preach the Gospel.

And by these words Christ creates His apostles, and forms them into teachers and preachers, making all of us to be their disciples. He subjects us all to His word spoken through them. Whether you are learned or unlearned makes no difference. Every one is to humble himself, with however much wisdom, learning, and genius with which he has been blessed.

Allow those simple fishermen to be the masters and teachers. Hear their words as they would hear Christ the Lord speaking. What does this mean: *As You sent Me into the world*. Think: This is no common saying.

This is no trifling matter to believe that Christ was sent into the world by the Father. Be fully persuaded in your conscience, and without doubting. Believe that when you hear the words that proceed out of the mouth of Christ, you hear the Father speak to you from heaven.

What is there, in all things human or divine, which anyone should desire more ardently than to hear God Himself speaking? Here then is given to you the surest testimony. The one who hears the Word of Christ hears the Word of Him who made heaven and earth by His Word.

And this same thing is here testified concerning the mouths and preachings of the Lord's apostles. *"I also have sent them into the world. That is, as they have heard Me, so also are they to be heard by all My future disciples. This is the same also as that He said to them in another place: "He that heareth you heareth Me."*

*Make them Apostles! Heralds of Thy cross; forth may they go to tell all realms Thy grace; inspired of Thee, may they count all but loss, and stand at last with joy before Thy face.*

## November 10

### And for their sakes I sanctify Myself. John 17:19a.



Jesus adds these words also that He might again strike at hypocrites and pretenders to holiness. After He had prayed that the Father would sanctify believers through the Word, someone may perhaps ask: *What Word of God offers and brings to us sanctification?*

Think: It certainly cannot be the Ten Commandments. Although they are the Word of God, and therefore holy, they cannot give that sanctification of which we are speaking here. We need the holiness that makes us saints before God.

So, what Word of God brings to us such complete sanctification? We cannot by our own powers fulfill what the commandments require of us! The commandments cannot purify the heart even when those demanded external works are performed.

Christ here uses that term "sanctified" in the Old Testament sense. Under Moses believers were said to be sanctified who brought their sacrifices, and sacrificed oxen or sheep, or wheat, or flour, or wine, or brought any other thing of the same sort. When the priest took these common gifts into his hand they were no longer considered common things. At that point they were said to be offered to the LORD and sanctified.

*"But My Christians," says Christ, "have need of another sacrifice by which they might be sanctified truly. And this shall be accomplished by My sacrificing of Myself for them, in their place."*

These words are not to be understood as meaning that Christ had any need to be sacrificed. Christ was holy from the womb of His mother, yes, from before He was conceived within her womb.

But to "sanctify" in this place signifies to discharge and perform the office of priest. I will offer a holy sacrifice and perform the office of priest. And what shall that be? I will "*sanctify Myself*"; that is, "*I*

*will be the offering and I will be the victim. I sacrifice Myself as a holy sacrifice. And this is not for Myself, but for them."*

*Jesus the sacrifice became  
To rescue guilty souls from hell;  
The spotless, bleeding, dying Lamb,  
Beneath avenging justice fell.*

**November 11**

**That they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.**

**John 17:19b**

★ ★ ★

How eloquently and clearly Christ speaks concerning real sanctification. God does this to instruct us. He does not want us to wander away from the true sanctification. God also desires us to take care that we teach no other sanctification than His. Christ does not want us to think of seeking satisfaction in any other way.

For He well knew how difficult a journey this would be! He knew how many temptations would attend this. He knew not only how easily even we who are Christians seek after something in ourselves, or something we are to do, in order to become sanctified.

Therefore He appends with so much care the words: *"in truth."* God thus opposes all false and worldly confidence that is placed in human and natural sanctification. *"My sanctification, says Christ, causes them to be sanctified in truth."*

Then, since this be true, you may easily conclude that all other things and means whereby we impiously pretend to become sanctified before God, are to be accounted vain and damnable.

For there are two matters that cannot stand together:

A) the blood of Christ sanctifies completely and sufficiently



B) our professions and works procure and aid satisfaction.

A right and Word-based faith believes that the sanctification of Christ alone benefits before God and becomes our sanctification. This is the God-worked faith that sanctifies all our works! Our works are not sanctified from any respect to our merit, but for the sake of that faith *from which they flowed*.

Without this true faith, no works, no life, can please God. Scripture honors those souls with the title "saints" who hear and receive the Word of God, even though they are still in flesh and blood.

*My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day be wholly Thine.*

## November 12

**I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also  
who believe in Me through their word.**

**John 17:20**

★ ★ ★

We ought to write this text in letters of gold. These words belong particularly to us. Christ makes mention of us Gentiles also! But see! He embraces in His prayer all Christianity, even to the last day. This prayer and its power may extend everywhere wherever the Word of the Apostles should come, and wherever it should be received by faith. There is no place or Christian person being excluded.

And this is our sure hope, our confidence, and our greatest treasure. This text is to be noted especially for the manner in which Christ has in it extolled and praised the preaching of the Apostles.

By God's Word through them we are brought to Christ, and by this same Word we believe in Him. Look at these words: ***also who believe***. This is work of the heart and of the internal nature. Through God's Word believer and Christ are joined together.

For the new nature is internal. It is the one who believes and has all the confidence and hope of his heart fixed on Jesus Christ alone. Faith is not a work of the body but of the internal recess of the heart.

And Christ says that they shall believe, that is, that they shall become spiritual, or new-natured, through the Word of the Apostles. And although all do not believe, yet there are many believers.

Look closely: Christ Himself does not say that all shall believe. But we know that some who hear the Word believe, which can be proven and made evident from many testimonies and examples of the Scripture.

Therefore we conclude that the Word is necessary and profitable, not to the ears and mind only, but to the heart and to the inner soul. The Word of God is the medium, the very means, through which faith is communicated to the mind and heart.

*Let every ear attend,  
And every heart rejoice;  
The trumpet of the Gospel sounds  
With an inviting voice.*

November 13  
That they all may be one.  
John 17:21a

★ ★ ★

To the one who believes through the Word of the apostles are given the grace and virtue of Christ's prayer. Together all Christians

form the Body of Christ. Whatever grief or whatever good happens to one as a member of the body, the same grief or good happens to the whole body.

Not only does this or that saint, but all the prophets, martyrs, Apostles, and all Christians in the world together, and those who are with God, suffer with a fellow believer, conquer, fight, help, defend, and uphold a fellow believer.

And what greater blessing can come upon anyone than to be brought into this communion and fraternity! What blessing to be made a member of this Body, which is called Christianity. This Body is of such a nature that God has united to all believers Himself, together with all His infinite blessings.

It is a high, all-powerful Master and Ruler of heaven and earth. At the feet of this Body of Christ the world, the devil, death, and hell must fall prostrate as soon as the Word is spoken. And who can hurt the man that has this confidence?! Who knows that when a believer suffers the least of griefs, then all heaven and earth, with all the saints and angels, cry out against his oppressors!

A believer may be assaulted by sin, which wishes to terrify him, gnaw at him, and press upon his conscience and to threaten him with death and hell. But God immediately, with all the assembly of the elect, says: *Sin shall not gnaw at you, nor shall hell swallow you up.* But to arrive at this there must be true faith.

*Make us to hear in each sweet Word  
Thy Holy Spirit calling  
To oneness with Thy Church and Thee,  
That heavenly bond forestalling.*

**November 14**  
**Even as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You,**  
**that they also may be in Us.**

**John 17:21b**

★ ★ ★

Jesus here presents to us Himself and the Father as an example and a likeness. Christ desires to declare to us that unity wherein He desires us to be united. *"And I and the Father are One",* He says, *"the same divine essence and majesty. According to this example all should be one, and one solely in Us; We should be so completely one body that all may have whatever We possess."*

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises. He wants us to be partakers of His divine nature. As the Spirit revealed through Peter in his second epistle, in chapter one.

And although the Father and Christ are one in the divine essence in a more sublime way than we can comprehend, still we have this blessing. We are blessed so that we may enjoy the benefits of this union. Moreover, these words are also spoken for our consolation and strengthening against the world and the devil.

For although the devil should attack any particular weak member of the Christian body, or make an assault on all of Christianity together, yet the wicked one is compelled to bear and feel that he has not just attacked us but Christ Himself. And since the devil attacks Christ's Body, it is not just Christ alone, but the Father also who is attacked. The creature attacks the omnipotent and eternal Majesty?!

We are so united that you dare hold no Christian in contempt. You dare offer an insult to no Christian, persecute none, injure none. Similarly, when one honors a Christian, does a kindness to Christian, know that it is being done it to God Himself and all Christians.

For God has given all things to His Christ. Christ has given all

blessings to His Christians. And all of us and all are connected together like the links of a chain.

*One Baptism and one faith have we, One Spirit sent to win us,  
One Lord, one Father, and one God, above, and through, and in  
us. Never, by schism, or by sin, May we that union sever,  
Till all, to perfect stature grown, are one with You forever.*

**November 15**

**That the world may believe that You sent Me.**

**John 17:21c**

★ ★ ★

This is the fruit that follows from such an union; namely, that the Word of Christ breaks forth. The Word spreads far and wide throughout the world. The Word is received for what it is: the Word of God. This Word is an almighty, divine, and invincible power. This Word is a never-failing fountain of all grace and blessedness.

This Word is the most excellent of all knowledge. It is so deeply hidden and so rare, and can never be fully learned. This is a reason Christ makes mention of hardly anything else. This is why Jesus repeats it in almost every word He speaks.

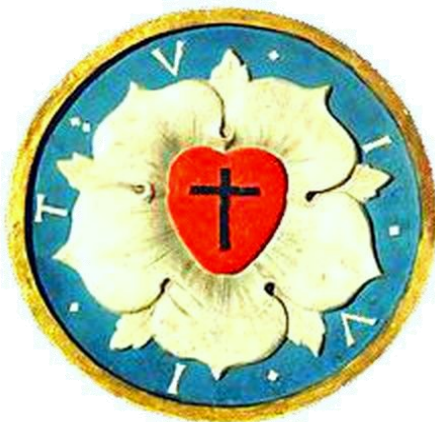
For it never entered into the mind and heart of any man that he should account all his own things as worthless. It never entered mankind's imagination that he either knows or can do, the true righteousness, faith-based sanctification, and eternal wisdom of Christ. This is all contained in, and made known by, the weak and humble preaching of His Word.

For this reason, I admonish the more diligently that we studiously learn and thoroughly weigh these words and the whole of this chapter of John.

Here we have sum of the whole Christian doctrine so abundantly and fully handled. Here it is asserted in such powerful words! We have all things in Christ that we have need of, and have nothing in ourselves or in any other man. But all of this is in Christ only.

The words themselves indeed are common and simple. The earthly messengers are the same: common and simple. And these combine to form the reason that the wise of this world so negligently pass over and despise the very Words of the living God.

*From heaven above to earth I come  
To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing.  
This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be.*



Selections from Luther's Commentaries-St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians 1535, Edwinus London; Epistles of St. Peter & St. Jude 1523, E. H. Gillett; Select Works of Martin Luther 1555, Rev. Henry Cole; Familiar Discourses of Luther 1566, Capt. Henry Bell, Rev. R.D.Fish; The Lutheran Hymnal; Rev. J.T. Mueller, 1925; Rev Paul A.Tullberg, 2020.