

Planning Christian Worship - Year C

Non-Festival—the Half Year of the Church

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The Season of Pentecost

The Church grows

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

The editor offers this suggestion to help provide a pattern and path for worship planning. (JES)

THE BELIEVER HAS FAITH...

<i>Pentecost 1 (Trinity)</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in the One True God</i>
<i>Pentecost 2</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God's great power</i>
<i>Pentecost 3</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God—even in the face of death</i>
<i>Pentecost 4</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God after contrition and repentance</i>

THE BELIEVER FOLLOWS CHRIST...

<i>Pentecost 5</i>	<i>Followers of Christ expect persecution</i>
<i>Pentecost 6</i>	<i>Followers of Christ understand the call for total commitment</i>
<i>Pentecost 7</i>	<i>Followers of Christ support kingdom work</i>
<i>Pentecost 8</i>	<i>Followers of Christ love their neighbor</i>
<i>Pentecost 9</i>	<i>Followers of Christ listen when God speaks</i>
<i>Pentecost 10</i>	<i>Followers of Christ pray boldly</i>
<i>Pentecost 11</i>	<i>Followers of Christ know that earthly wealth is meaningless</i>
<i>Pentecost 12</i>	<i>Followers of Christ find true treasure in trusting God's promises</i>

THE BELIEVER HEARS JESUS' WARNINGS...

<i>Pentecost 13</i>	<i>The Word doesn't bring peace, but division</i>
<i>Pentecost 14</i>	<i>The door to heaven is narrow</i>
<i>Pentecost 15</i>	<i>The first will be last...humble yourselves</i>
<i>Pentecost 16</i>	<i>Count the cost of discipleship</i>

THE BELIEVER GROWS IN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER...

<i>Pentecost 17</i>	<i>Christians love the lost like Christ</i>
<i>Pentecost 18</i>	<i>Christians have a right relationship with worldly wealth</i>
<i>Pentecost 19</i>	<i>Christians find real wealth in heavenly treasure</i>
<i>Pentecost 20</i>	<i>Christians do their duty</i>
<i>Pentecost 21</i>	<i>Christians live a life of thanksgiving</i>
<i>Pentecost 22</i>	<i>Christians are persistent in prayer</i>
<i>Pentecost 23</i>	<i>Christians serve God above all</i>
<i>Pentecost 24</i>	<i>Christians know that Jesus is the Savior of Sinners</i>

First Sunday after Pentecost—Holy Trinity

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is beyond our comprehension. Yet it is proclaimed in Scripture and believed by Spirit-wrought hearts of faith. We believe in the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The height, depth, and breadth of our God gives us peace as we travel towards eternity.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 16:12-15	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Numbers 6:22-27	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Romans 5:1-5	1 John 5:5-12
<i>Psalm</i>	150	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ: in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia. (Isaiah 6:3b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 16:12-15

On the night he was betrayed, perhaps even as they walked out to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus warns his disciples that the truth is unbearable. But the Spirit of Truth would come to instruct, guide, and strengthen in the way of truth. With aching hearts they would witness the Suffering Savior fulfill his redemptive work, bringing eternal peace between God and humankind. Yet, it was not until the coming of the Holy Spirit that they would fully understand the fulfillment of promises made and kept by our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

FIRST LESSON: NUMBERS 6:22-27

The Aaronic blessing is an integral part of the Lord's closing instructions at Mt. Sinai. The two-sided covenant of Sinai called for complete dedication of heart and mind to the almighty God of Israel. The idolatrous failures of God's holy people were still fresh in their minds. (And surely, this would not be the last of their waywardness.) Yet, Aaron and the priests are to assure the people of their Lord's continued faithfulness, even in the face of Israel's unfaithfulness. How impossible for human minds to possess a full understanding of the depths of God's grace! But the Spirit comes, planting confidence in the heart that clings to the Father's faithfulness and the eternal blessing he brings through the Son. On the road to the Promised Land or on the road of life, believers travel at peace in the Triune God's three-fold blessing.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:1-5

The Judge’s declaration of innocence would mean nothing were it not for faith. In love the Father pours out his Holy Spirit to give this forgiveness, life, and salvation to souls gripped by the fear of guilt and punishment. Gifted through the Father, made accessible through the Son, established by the Holy Spirit, we are assured of eternal peace with our Triune God. Suffer though we may, the Spirit continues to strengthen hearts that live in his grace.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:5-12

Sin is rampant. The godless get ahead. Deception succeeds. The believer suffers...or so it would seem. But John sets forth testimony to the truth of the Triune God through the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit works through the means of grace, proclaiming the message of the Christ in the waters of baptism and the blood of the Lord’s Supper. This is the Spirit’s message: the Father has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

HYMN OF THE DAY

177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

44 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
 72 O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise
 176 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
 185 O Holy Spirit, Grant us Grace
 190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost
 191 Father Most Holy, Merciful, and Tender
 192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay
 193 Come, Now, Almighty King
 195 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
 239 Glory Be to God the Father
 241 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring
 247 Earth and All Stars
 260 Let All Things Now Living
 262 All Glory Be to God Alone
 263 All Glory Be to God on High
 264 Glory Be to God in Heaven
 266 Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above
 270 We All Believe in One True God
 271 We All Believe in One True God

273 Glory Be to the Father
 326 May the Grace of Christ Our Savior
 329 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
 330 Now the Hour of Worship O'er
 332 Go, My Children, with My Blessing
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults
 408 Christians, While on Earth Abiding
 411 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
 531 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life
 584 O Blessed, Holy Trinity
 596 Let Me Be Yours Forever
 598 My Maker, Be with Me
 623 God the Father, Son, and Spirit
 724 Voices Raised to You We Offer
 760 When Peace, like a River
 778 How Shall They Hear Who Have Not Heard

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Faith trusts in God's power completely. No matter how impossible the problem, faith believes that God can and will help. Faith like that, given by the Holy Spirit, is not reserved exclusively for the direct descendants of Abraham. Rather, the gift of faith comes to every heart in the spiritual House of Israel.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:1-10	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 8:22, 23, 41-43	Joshua 5:13—6:5, 20
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 1:1-10	James 1:2-12
<i>Psalm</i>	100	142
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia. (Psalm 119:105)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:1-10

In the centurion Jesus sees great faith in the heart of a foreigner. He trusted completely in Christ's power and believed that Christ could help in any trial. Though he was a foreigner, the centurion can claim membership in the House of Israel because of the grace given to him through the Christ. Through heartache and tears, faith trusts not in its own strength, but in the power of him to whom it clings, the Lord Jesus.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 8:22, 23, 41-43

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon exalts the object of our faith, the LORD, the God of Israel, the God of all power and might, and also the God of free and faithful grace. So great is his name and so deep his love that the faithful will come from the ends of the earth to worship him. In his grace, the LORD will keep his promises and bring his deliverance with a mighty hand and outstretched arm to all who trust in him.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 1:1-10

This lesson begins a series of six readings from Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul pleads with the Galatians not to abandon the faith to which they have been called. Their faith is in the Lord who has rescued them from hell itself. How can they abandon the Gospel they have known? But in the midst of trial, know this: It is the Lord who brings salvation. We place the confidence of our hearts in him alone.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 5:13—6:5, 20

Standing before those huge walls, the instructions from the Lord must have seemed ridiculous. Yet the Lord had given his word. By faith the Israelites trusted the Lord's marching orders and in spectacular fashion our faithful God delivered the city into their hands. Here was a chilling lesson for the people of Jericho. The Lord is all powerful and exacting in his judgment. Yet at the same, let us not forget his grace in the life of Rahab. What a lesson God teaches us at Jericho: He is all-powerful and exacting in his punishment, but boundlessly merciful to those like Rahab who cling to his promises in faith. By faith, a foreigner is brought into the House of Israel.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 1:2-12

How difficult it is to rejoice in the midst of trials! Yet, the Christian does just that. For the heart of faith knows that the Lord uses trials to strengthen our trust in him and will doubtlessly give generously, even an eternal crown of life. Put your faith in him who has spoken it, and it is done.

HYMN OF THE DAY

190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

176 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
 177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 228 Come, Rejoice before Your Maker
 233 All People that on Earth Do Dwell
 252 Oh, Sing to the Lord
 255 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
 346 In You is Gladness
 354 Lamb of God, We Fall before You
 391 God Loved the World So that He Gave
 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way
 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 412 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
 416 How Firm a Foundation
 425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise
 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way
 491 O Master of the Loving Heart
 520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old
 756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
 768 How Firm a Foundation

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Last Sunday we heard that faith trusts God’s power completely. This Sunday’s lessons sound the depth of that faith. Can our faith trust completely, even when faced with death itself? Facing our own mortality, or that of our loved ones, brings out the weakest parts of our character. And so, today the Church prays: Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:11-17	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 17:17-24	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 1:11-24	Philippians 1:18b-26
<i>Psalm</i>	30	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 5:19 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:11-17

A grieving heart finds unexpected joy as death is met by the Author of life. Leaving the people in awe at the display of his power, Jesus raises the young man of Nain from the dead. In so doing, Jesus brought joy to his mother and a promise of help to God’s people. Death is powerless before the Son of God. In this young man’s rising from death to life, Christ gives us a foretaste of what waits for God’s people. Faith trusts in Christ—even in the face of death.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 17:17-24

The Shunamite woman expressed her faith in the Lord by providing for the Lord’s prophet, Elijah. But her faith is shaken at the death of her only son, himself a special gift from the Lord. But the Lord changes her sorrow into joy by raising her son from the dead. God was gracious to her in her weakness and gave her renewed strength of faith seen in those humble words of awe at this display of power, “Now I know.”

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 1:11-24

As a testimony to the power of the Christ and the authority of his gospel, Paul cites the example of his own previous way of life. The power of the Christ raises the spiritually dead to spiritual life. Paul who once persecuted the church, was redeemed and raised from death to new life in Christ—a life of service to the saints in the Lord’s Kingdom work and life forever in heaven.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-26

Live or die, Paul is at peace with the Lord's will. The message of the risen Christ is being proclaimed. More than a prophet, Christ has come to bring life from death. Therefore, Paul knows and is confident of this: the Lord can and will bring joy even through the sorrow of death. We now know the Lord of life who took away Death's sting. In him we can rejoice with Paul who said, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain."

HYMN OF THE DAY

413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

145 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

167 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

170 Draw Us to Thee

212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High

278 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven

413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

414 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

415 Be Still, My Soul

425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise

429 What God Ordains Is Always Good

466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose

491 O Master of the Loving Heart

503 Oh, Blessed Home, Where Man and Wife

520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

552 By All Your Saints Still Striving

555 For All Your Saints, O Lord

588 Abide with Me

606 For Me to Live Is Jesus

607 How Blest Are They

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The journey from spiritual death to spiritual life begins with a recognition of guilt. We have sinned and fall short of fulfilling the Law of the Lord. Through contrition and repentance God prepares the heart to receive the gift of the Gospel.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:36-50	
<i>First Lesson</i>	2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15	2 Chronicles 33:1-6, 10-18
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 2:11-21	1 Corinthians 6:9-11
<i>Psalm</i>	32	40
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia. (Psalm 132:9)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:36-50

Jesus uses the parable of the money lender to show the Pharisees the value of forgiven debt. Tears of guilt and shame still flow in a repentant flood from the heart at Jesus' feet. The man who fails to see his own sin, considers himself to have little need of a Savior. The heart of faith, however, recognizes its own debt of sin and can truly appreciate the depth of God's gracious forgiveness. The life of a Christian is one of constant repentance of sins, and trust in Christ for forgiveness.

FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 11:26—12:10, 13-15

What a warning this lesson brings to Christians! What an admonition to daily contrition and repentance! Here is the infamous blight on the reign of King David. Unrepentance was leading to David's spiritual destruction. So the Lord sends Nathan to bring David to recognize his guilt and return to the Lord. The Lord's judgment is just and right. But such is the grace of our God, that immediately sinners who repent hear that the Lord has taken away their sins.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 2:11-21

The Law is necessary to show us our sins, to curb our actions, and to guide our lives. The Law, however, cannot save us; only the Gospel can. The sinful flesh continually tempts us to believe that God loves us because of who we are rather than in spite of who we are. Men came from Jerusalem and wanted the

Galatians to believe that fulfilling the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament was a necessity for salvation. Paul shows us that not even Peter can change what God ordained: salvation is by grace.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 CHRONICLES 33:1-6, 10-18

Here is the account of the abominable evil of Manasseh, King of Judah. Only after a brutal humbling and exile in Babylon did Manasseh recognize the error of his ways. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually crushed into humble repentance Manasseh returned to the Lord and knew his forgiving faithfulness. How true it is that God wants no one to be lost, but that each man turn from his wickedness and live!

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

Here is stern warning from the Lord through the Apostle Paul that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God. Included in this list of wickedness are many of the sins that are popular—even defended and admired—in our society today. Here is opportunity to preach on not only on such hot-button sins as homosexuality, but also the power the Spirit to wash, sanctify, and justify the repentant heart in the Lord Jesus.

HYMN OF THE DAY

479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
 154 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks
 286 The Law Commands and Makes Us Know
 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession
 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive
 305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You
 350 All Praise Be Yours
 383 Blessed Are They, Forever Blest
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be
 390 Salvation unto Us Has Come
 393 If Your Beloved Son, O God

394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 397 Just As I Am, without One Plea
 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise
 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart
 446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
 454 I Gave My Life for Thee
 738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair
 739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me
 761 Christ Is With Me

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? The life of faith is lived in a godless world, and it is therefore certain to be met with persecution. Like our Suffering Savior, we too bear his cross in our daily interactions with the unholy trio. The Lord, however, uses these persecutions suffered for the sake of the Gospel to refine us into the pure, precious metal of his children. Strengthened through the means of grace, we boldly confess Jesus as the Christ in the face of any persecution or trouble. The Church prays that God in his mercy would direct the affairs of this world so that the Church might have peace, but at the same time we prepare ourselves for persecution.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 9:18-24	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Zechariah 13:7-9	Genesis 39:6b-12, 16-23
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 3:23-29	Hebrews 11:24-26
<i>Psalm</i>	22	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Alleluia. (Galatians 4:6 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 9:18-24

In a private moment, Jesus offers the disciples an opportunity to confess their faith. They confess Jesus as “the Christ of God.” These men so bold in faith have no idea what lies ahead. Jesus warns them of his impending suffering and glorious resurrection. But the suffering is not his alone. To all who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior come trials and suffering on account of his name. We bear his cross on our heads and hearts at the risk of our lives. But to him who overcomes is given the crown of eternal life.

FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 13:7-9

In this prophetic vision of Jesus as the suffering Messiah, the Shepherd is struck and the flock is scattered. The sound of disciples’ feet fleeing into the darkness first fulfilled this prophesy in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet God makes a promise: suffering for the Gospel is his way of refining his children. As fire removes impurities from gold and silver, so persecution refines the faith of God’s people. Only with this knowledge can we understand what Luther meant when he said that the absence of persecution is total persecution.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 3:23-29

How can a Christian rejoice even in the suffering and persecution? When we know that these sufferings are for the sake of Christ who bought us and made us his heirs. We confess Christ even in the face of persecution because we belong to Christ and look forward to an inheritance that no suffering, no evil, no attack can take away from us. Paul contrasts the harsh imprisonment of the law with the gracious freedom of the gospel that comes through faith. In this contrast we see how the Lord can use the trials of life and temptations of the heart to build deeper appreciation for his gracious salvation in Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we have been made equal and unified heirs of the promise, boldly claiming our inheritance from the Father.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 39:6B-12, 16-23

Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? Under daily pressure, Joseph knew the struggle of contemplating that question. When confronted with the blatant seduction of evil, he boldly confessed his obedience to the Lord only to find himself wrongly imprisoned. Yet even through this trial the Lord blessed Joseph, preparing him for future leadership and the saving of many lives. God had not forgotten him; God was refining him; God was preparing him for future service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 11:24-26

Is faithfulness worth the trouble it brings? For Moses, faithfulness meant giving up power, riches, and pleasure so great that the world still marvels at ancient Egypt's glories. Even more than abstaining from these, faithfulness meant Moses would leave nobility behind and identify himself with an enslaved people. Such trouble for being faithful! Moses, however, knew the Hope of Israel and regarded this disgrace for the sake of Christ to be worth more than all the treasures of Egypt.

HYMN OF THE DAY

536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

156 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
 210 Who Knows When Death
 297 Baptized in Water
 299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
 300 See This Wonder in the Making
 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
 392 Not unto Us
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 416 How Firm a Foundation
 422 Jesus, Lead Us On
 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way
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453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke
454 I Gave My Life for Thee
465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken
466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
539 In Christ There Is No East or West
549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band
552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven
736 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
737 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me
768 How Firm a Foundation
772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Following Christ calls for total commitment. The life of faith walks in lock step with the will of God and does not following the meandering ways of this world. Elisha’s response to the Lord’s call stands in contrast to the initially willing, but ultimately uncommitted “followers” of Jesus. Our Prayer of the Day says it well, “Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises...” and our Verse of the Day aptly summarizes the Sunday.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 9:51-62	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 19:14-21	Jonah 3:3—4:4
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	2 Corinthians 11:21b-30
<i>Psalm</i>	62	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 9:51-62

Following Christ leaves no room for vengeance, self-preservation or wrong priorities. So many want to follow Jesus, but only if a life of faith can be lived as much *of* the world as *in* the world. Breathless excitement wasn’t enough; cultural conventions weren’t enough; not even seemingly loving acts were enough to change Jesus’ claim: Following Christ is all or nothing—it calls for total commitment.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 19:14-21

Elisha is called to follow Elijah in proclaiming the Word of the Lord to Israel. He answered the all or nothing call of God with total commitment by burning his oxen and plow. There would be no looking back. He promptly leads his family in a farewell thanksgiving celebration and then left them behind to follow Elijah. Let us put our hand to the plow and look only ahead to the eternal harvest.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25

We were once yoked in slavery to sin and the Law. Now, set free from evil, our new found freedom does not lead to waywardness or being yoked again by sin. We are called to leave behind our life of sin and not look

back to it. Rather, we follow Christ completely and with willing hearts we joyfully serve the Lord, walking in step with the Spirit.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JONAH 3:3—4:4

Jonah could best be described as the Lord’s reluctant prophet. Jonah thought he could outmaneuver God, but a fish spit him back into line with the Lord’s will. He preached the Word and to his dismay saw enemy of Israel in the dust and ashes of repentance. Jonah would rather have died than seen the mercy of the Lord showered upon them. He was unwilling to commit to God’s will and leave behind his hatred and prejudice. God calls Jonah to leave them behind and instead follow him on the path of mercy and forgiveness.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:21B-30

How easy it would have been for Paul to give up the Way to return to the way of the world! Yet by grace, through faith, Paul continued to follow Christ. Even in the face of a host of dangers and hardships he did not look back. Every Christian is called to similarly follow Christ with unswerving devotion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 110 My Song Is Love Unknown | 525 The Son of God, Our Christ |
| 126 Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth | 527 Weary of All Trumpeting |
| 154 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks | 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give |
| 204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word | 543 God of the Prophets |
| 205 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven | 563 Go Labor On |
| 357 Jesus, Lover of My Soul | 564 There Is a Balm in Gilead |
| 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke | 580 Every Morning Mercies New |
| 463 Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult | 715 What Grace Is This! |
| 471 Renew Me, O Eternal Light | 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me |
| 496 Glorious in Majesty | 770 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve |
| 505 Love Is the Gracious Gift | 772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth |
| 517 Almighty Father, Strong to Save | |

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord invites believers to take part in his kingdom work. What joy and privilege is ours to work in his harvest fields, to witness the power of the Spirit, and to support this ministry!

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 66:10-14	1 Kings 17:1-16
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 6:1-10, 14-16	Philippians 4:10-20
<i>Psalm</i>	66	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:1-12, 16-20

Jesus sends out the seventy-two to proclaim peace to the people. But they go empty handed. In this way, God's people are given the opportunity to respond to God's goodness by sharing all good things with his messengers. What a privilege to bear such good tidings and humbly receive such gifts! What joy to see the Word at work, accomplishing the purpose for which it is sent! As messenger or hearer, what grace to be numbered among those whose names are written in heaven!

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 66:10-14

Through the ministry of the Gospel God extends peace to the world. Through the preaching of the Word, the hand of the Lord is made known to his servants and the fury of the Lord is made known to his enemies. Where there was seeming defeat, there is now victory. Where there was despair there is now purpose. Where there was distraught fear, there is now the carefree joy of a child dancing in mother's lap. Yes, the Lord has nourished and comforted the faithful with his message of peace. It is our privilege to witness this kingdom work and rejoice with all Israel in the comfort that has come to our hearts.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 6:1-10, 14-16

Using harvest language, Paul is inspired to encourage our participation in the Lord's kingdom work. In our "Me" oriented culture, bearing our own burdens seems tough enough. But the Lord calls on each of us to help bear each other's burdens. What joy is ours to fulfill the love-law of Christ as we share the message not

only of forgiveness in Christ Jesus but also of comfort for the weary. This doing “good to all” even carries over into our support of kingdom workers as we share all good things with spiritual instructors.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 17:1-16

God provided for his prophet through a wonderful miracle. God could have kept providing for his prophet in that way, but he had another plan. He would give the people of God the privilege of providing for and supporting his minister. It was still a miracle; it was still the blessing of God that made it possible. But God in his wisdom wanted his Church to share in the work of supporting the ministry of the Word. And they were doubly blessed.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

Christians supporting the work of the Gospel offer a fragrant offering and an acceptable sacrifice to God. Paul acknowledges with joy the generosity of the Philippian congregation. Even when he was not directly serving them, they continued to support his mission work by meeting his physical needs. What privilege it is to praise God by supporting the Lord’s kingdom work. In this way the Lord continues to provide for his full-time servants in the church and promises even more: To those who give support to the Gospel, God promises to meet all their needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus!

HYMN OF THE DAY

570 O Christians, Haste

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 181 Come, Oh, Come, Life-Giving Spirit
 200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 201 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 236 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
 253 I Will Sing My Maker's Praises
 345 In the Cross of Christ I Glory
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 437 I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
 492 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
 499 O God of Mercy, God of Might
 518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go
 524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love
 525 The Son of God, Our Christ

530 Hark! The Church Proclaims Her Honor
 544 Preach You the Word
 546 Lord Jesus, You Have Come
 548 O Lord, in Prayer You Spent the Night
 559 Lord of the Living Harvest
 567 Awake, O Spirit, Who Inspired
 568 Good News of God Above
 570 O Christians, Haste
 572 Send Forth, O Lord, to every Place
 573 Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying
 575 How Shall They Hear the Word of God
 576 Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word
 578 Saints of God, the Dawn Is Brightening
 726 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken
 760 When Peace, like a River
 770 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
 775 For Builders Bold, Whose Vision Pure

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer loves his neighbor. We have every reason to love him. We know what we were when God found us; we know the love and mercy he poured out on us. Christ, the compassion of God, has treated our spiritual wounds and paid for our healing with his own blood. As we have known his goodness, let us do good to all. As our Prayer of the Day reminds us: The word is planted in our hearts, and now we ask the Holy Spirit to bring forth such fruits of faith as loving our neighbor for the sake of Christ.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:25-37	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Deuteronomy 24:17-22
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 1:1-14	Romans 12:9-21
<i>Psalm</i>	25	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.
(Deuteronomy 30:14 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus connects love for God with love for our neighbors. Just as God has had compassion on us, so we are to have compassion on others, especially those in need. This love for others, even for our enemies, grows from the Word of the Lord rooted in our hearts and mouths.

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14

How abundantly has the Lord loved his people and blessed them with bountiful gifts for heart and mouth, soul and body. This Word of salvation is abundantly clear and fills our hearts and mouths. With such abundance, the life of faith responds in generosity towards others in need.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

This lesson begins a series of three readings from Paul's letter to the congregation at Colosse. Spirit-worked appreciation for what has been given to them in Christ Jesus has led the Colossians to bear fruits of faith and love for the benefit of God's kingdom. Paul's prayer is that this work of the Spirit continues, not only in the hearts of the Colossians, but also in hearts of believers today. Rescued from darkness, we too know and embody the love of Christ, bearing fruit in every good work done for the love of our neighbor.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 24:17-22

The Lord commands the Israelites to remember those in need by reminding them that they were once slaves in Egypt. Crying out in need, the Lord answered Israel’s prayer and provided for their salvation. God’s love for us is always the reason and motivation for our acts of love toward our neighbor.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 12:9-21

Paul calls on the believer to live the life of faith in joyful response to the Lord’s goodness. This means shunning what is evil and embracing what is good. Loving our neighbor means embodying the love of Christ: being humble, brotherly, hospitable, peaceable. Sharing with those in need, especially the enemy, embodies the love Christ had for us. This, then, is truly showing love to our neighbor and doing good to all.

HYMN OF THE DAY

456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word

348 Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus

390 Salvation unto Us Has Come

438 In God, My Faithful God

459 O God, My Faithful God

476 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

499 O God of Mercy, God of Might

505 Love Is the Gracious Gift

518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

519 O God of Love, O King of Peace

521 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love

526 We Are Your People

597 May God the Father of Our Lord

773 In Unity and Peace

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer hears the Word of God and listens with a trusting heart. So many things in this world can distract us from that simple privilege and duty of believers! Living according to God's will means giving the Word of God central place in our lives as the one thing needful.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:38-42	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 18:1-14	1 Samuel 3:1-10
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 1:21-29	Colossians 3:12-17
<i>Psalm</i>	119a	122
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:11b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:38-42

Twenty-first century Christians can certainly identify with Martha. So much to do and so little time! We have great excuses and fine rationalizations to explain the fact we have so little time to sit at Jesus' feet. But like Martha, our reasons fail in the face of Christ's simple statement: there is one needful thing—to hear the Word of God. On many an occasion, Martha would have surely sat at Jesus' feet. But on this day, she was distracted by the many things being used to drag her away from where it was better for her to be. The busyness of Martha is contrasted by the devotion of Mary to Jesus' words. When this one thing needful is truly treasured in the believer's life, everything else falls into place and it will not be taken from us, even into eternity.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 18:1-14

The Lord appeared to Abraham and promised him a son. While the world laughs with Sarah at the seemingly impossible promises of God, we hear the Word of the Lord and believe it. Promises of free forgiveness, eternal life after death, and the perfection of heaven seem laughable to those who busy themselves with getting ahead or serving self. Even those who are familiar with the Word of the Lord find it difficult to believe his promises when guilt haunts our hearts. But with the Word of the Lord in its rightful, central place in the life of the believer, nothing is impossible. The Lord spoke and ancient Abraham had a son.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:21-29

Paul became a servant of the Church to present the Word of God in its fullness. This Word proclaims the mystery kept hidden for generations: God has reconciled all people through Christ's physical body and now presents us without blemish and free from accusation. Only one thing is needful: the Word of God in its fullness. This mystery, hidden from the ages, is now revealed to us, his saints. Because Christ is in us, so is the hope of eternal glory. We sit at Jesus feet to hear it again and again.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Eli had issues. He was a man who falsely accused pious Hannah but failed to remove his wicked sons from office. He was a man who served in the Lord's house, but received a prophecy of judgment against him from God. Yes, Eli had issues. However, he knew one thing and passed it on to young Samuel: When God speaks, we listen. With Samuel, we humbly answer the Lord's call, "Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening."

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Though we have been called to be God's chosen people, we often fail to act like it. Such fruits of the Spirit as compassion, gentleness, and patience are replaced by irritation, intolerance, and impenitence. But as the Word of Christ dwells in us, so the peace of Christ rules in our hearts. Gathered around the Word of the Lord, we hear of his gracious forgiveness. We rejoice in thanksgiving. We put aside the urges of the sinful nature. We forgive as we have been forgiven. We love as we have been loved. Such is the impact the Word of the Lord has in the believer's life. Indeed, when the Word has central place as the one thing needful, everything we do is to the glory of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

290 One Thing's Needful

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In
 221 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
 222 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang
 255 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
 282 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear
 283 Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
 293 God's Word is Our Great Heritage
 317 O Lord, We Praise You
 333 Abide, O Dearest Jesus
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
 462 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

467 May the Mind of Christ My Savior
 490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living
 506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall
 510 I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus
 518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go
 519 O God of Love, O King of Peace
 522 Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord
 592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
 724 Voices Raised to You We Offer
 735 Speak, O Lord
 745 May the Peace of God
 752 In Christ Alone

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer prays boldly. The Prayer of the Day beautifully centers worship for this Sunday: God's ears are open; let us then boldly ask for the blessings he promises.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 11:1-13	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 18:20-32	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 2:6-15	James 5:13-18
<i>Psalm</i>	6	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 11:1-13

The disciples came to Jesus looking for help in learning to pray. Jesus responds coupling the spiritual-gift petitions of the Lord's Prayer with examples of the boldness with which our Father invites us to ask, seek, and knock. Rooted in the Word, these requests come from hearts of faith that have been taught to seek not only what we need but even what we want. Our confidence is this: we can come again and again before our Father's throne of grace knowing that every good and perfect gift comes from our dear Father to his dear children.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 18:20-32

There were just certain ways that things were done in the ancient East. This was not it. Abraham's continued pressing of God for concessions would have seemed presumptuous to any earthly master. Yet Abraham was as bold as this when talking to God! On hearing of the Lord's plans for wicked Sodom, Abraham shamelessly presses the Lord to live up to the meaning of his name. Our confidence is the same as we boldly come before our heavenly Father's throne seeking his free and faithful grace. We come, then, knowing that our dear Father will answer our prayer in the way that is best for us. Though the Lord did not find even ten righteous ones living in Sodom, Lot and his daughters were ultimately saved.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

This second reading in the three week series from Colossians points out the reason we can be so bold in prayer. God has given us the fullness of Christ. In him we were circumcised, buried, and raised to life. Sins

forgiven, we have been made children of God who have every right and encouragement to ask of God—as a child would ask his dear father.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 5:13-18

C.S. Lewis said that in prayer God gives us the dignity of causality. Using the example of Elijah’s earnest prayers, James encourages a bold prayer life on behalf of others in keeping with the will of the Lord. The righteous are invited to boldly pray for the sick in both body and soul, and God promises to hear those prayer of men made righteous and to respond with forgiveness and healing. Such dignity God gives us! No wonder James can make such a sweeping statement: Is any of you in trouble? He should pray.

HYMN OF THE DAY

410 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

143 He's Risen, He's Risen
 151 Triumphant from the Grave
 155 Christ the Lord Is Risen Again
 189 Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore You
 232 Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care
 294 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy
 297 Baptized in Water
 299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
 368 O Savior, Precious Savior
 372 I Lay My Sins on Jesus
 407 O Lord, You Have in Your Pure Grace
 408 Christians, While on Earth Abiding

409 Come, My Soul, with Every Care
 412 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
 413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need
 423 Not in Anger, Mighty God
 460 How Can I Thank You, Lord
 478 With the Lord Begin Your Task
 514 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain
 580 Every Morning Mercies New
 736 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
 752 In Christ Alone
 760 When Peace, like a River

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Earthly wealth is meaningless without God. The meaning of life cannot be found in the abundance of earthly possessions but in the abundance of heavenly blessings. The believer recognizes that everything the world seeks and offers is meaningless. Rather, he sets his heart on the treasure found in the fullness of Christ.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 12:13-21	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-26	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 3:1-11	James 5:1-11
<i>Psalm</i>	34	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” Alleluia. (John 14:23)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 12:13-21

It is shocking to hear Jesus deny authority over anything, much less something as mundane as an inheritance. But finally, that is the point. Earthly wealth is meaningless. The man called Jesus “teacher” but hadn’t learned the lesson. So Jesus teaches him and us how foolish it is to think that life consists of what we have. By contrast, the life of faith is lived in joyful thanksgiving for both the temporal and eternal blessings that come from above. By faith, this, then, is being rich toward God—a life of thanksgiving for all that he has given us through Jesus.

FIRST LESSON: ECCLESIASTES 1:2, 2:18-26

The Teacher, King Solomon, had more riches and worldly pleasure than we can comprehend, but experience had taught him that they are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Yet, in an effort to find meaning in life, so many pursue the “stuff” this sinful world offers. In the end, having the most toys adds up to nothing but an inheritance squandered by fools. Rather, true wealth, true value, true satisfaction only comes from the hand of God. If one seeks to find meaning in life, search no further than the wisdom and knowledge of God.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

The last of three readings in Colossians tells us to set our mind on things above, not on earthly things like the man who built bigger barns or the teacher who chased the wind. Yes, our struggle continues between the old and new Adams. But that old Adam has been buried with Christ, and the new man has been raised with

Christ. The result is that our life is hidden with Christ in God. We do not seek worldly wealth but heavenly glory.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 5:1-11

The trap has been set and sprung for those who seek after wealth. Their very actions accuse and condemn them. The idolatry of greed has seized their hearts, driving them to deception and even to the point of murder in order to satiate their carnal lusts. Here is warning for us as we recognize in ourselves the same epicurean aptitude so prevalent in our hedonistic society. But God be praised, the old Adam has been buried and the new man arisen in Christ. Our hearts no longer find comfort in the temporal, but only in the eternal. The imminent judgment of the Lord no longer threatens us, but comforts us as we patiently endure the temptations of the flesh and wait for the Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY

484 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

40 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is
 125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 199 In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold
 290 One Thing's Needful
 319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image
 320 On My Heart Imprint Your Image
 349 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
 355 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus
 373 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful
 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way
 417 I'm But a Stranger Here
 421 All Depends on Our Possessing
 452 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

463 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult
 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
 471 Renew Me, O Eternal Light
 477 What Is the World to Me
 482 Forgive Us, Lord
 492 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 507 Lord of Our Growing Years
 539 In Christ There Is No East or West
 583 Now that the Daylight Fills the Sky
 743 O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing
 752 In Christ Alone
 762 Consider How the Birds Above

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

True treasure is faith in the promises of God—no matter how difficult they seem to believe. The Verse of the Day defines that treasure well: sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not yet see.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 12:32-40	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 15:1-6	Haggai 1:2-14
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Revelation 3:1-6
<i>Psalm</i>	33	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 12:32-40

After heaping up a number of warnings in Chapter 12, Jesus called on his disciples to “Seek his kingdom and all these things will be given to you as well.” Setting aside the decaying decadence of the world, the flock has nothing to fear, for God has promised that he has already given us the kingdom. Some days that is a very hard promise to believe as we walk the way of the cross. But trusting that promise of God brings real treasure and a deep longing for Christ to come.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 15:1-6

Earthly wealth wasn’t the treasure that Abraham sought. No, he longed for the son long promised who would carry forward the promised Seed of Woman. God came and reminded Abraham that God was not only Abraham’s shield, but his treasure, too. Certain again of what he could only see by faith, Abraham looked forward to the fulfillment of the Lord’s promise to bless him with the seeming impossibility of a son. To us the Son of promise has come. Like Isaac to his aged parents, Jesus has come to bring joy and connection to the Lord’s imminent and eternal reward.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 11:1-3,8-16

How long seems this road from grace to glory! How difficult this earthly path we walk laden with burdens of body and soul! We cry with saints across the centuries, “How long, O Lord?” Using the life of Abraham as an

example, the writer to the Hebrews encourages faithful living that looks forward to the fulfilled promises of the Lord. Written in his blood and guaranteed with his life, the great High Priest promises to us the same heavenly country, the same eternal city prepared for the faithful.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: HAGGAI 1:12-14

Judah had returned from exile at the gracious working of the hand of the Lord. Yet their first priority was to rebuild personal wealth rather than rebuild the house of the Lord for the coming of the Messiah. They labored, but the treasure they sought dropped through a “purse with a hole in it.” With the Lord’s salvation at hand, the people were to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. By the power of the Spirit, the Lord redirects our eyes to look for him as we prepare our hearts for his coming again.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 3:1-6

All the outward signs of living faith could be seen in Sardis, but the truth revealed the dead and dying. Wake up from the sleep of spiritual apathy before judgment comes like a thief in the night. Join the remnant of the faithful that has been preserved and will be forever acknowledged before the Father.

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 442 Have No Fear, Little Flock
- 472 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | 421 All Depends on Our Possessing |
| 10 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us | 422 Jesus, Lead Us On |
| 199 In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold | 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart |
| 214 Jerusalem the Golden | 463 Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult |
| 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See | 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose |
| 220 O’er the Distant Mountains Breaking | 477 What Is the World to Me |
| 244 Arise, My Soul, Arise | 482 Forgive Us, Lord |
| 248 When in Our Music God Is Glorified | 492 Son of God, Eternal Savior |
| 311 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness | 511 O Lord, Our God, Your Gracious Hand |
| 315 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face | 540 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng |
| 319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image | 551 For All the Saints |
| 320 On My Heart Imprint Your Image | 728 Jerusalem the Golden |
| 349 Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 734 When in Our Music God Is Glorified |
| 355 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus | 755 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure |
| 364 My Heart Is Longing | 756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight |
| 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way | 757 Where Your Treasure Is |
| 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded | 762 Consider How the Birds Above |
| 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven | 777 Now Let Us All in Hymns of Praise |
| 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink | |
| 417 I’m But a Stranger Here | |

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Four weeks of warnings for Christians begins on this Sunday that the life of faith will be marked by difficulties. These warnings are given so that the believer will be prepared to meet these challenges with the confidence of the cross. Today we see that the Word of God doesn't always unite—it also divides. The living and active Word of God does not bring peace between believers and unbelievers, but division.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 12:49-53	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 23:23-29	2 Kings 11:1-3,12-18
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 12:1-13	Ephesians 6:10-20
<i>Psalm</i>	139a	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia. (Hebrews 4:12 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 12:49-53

The fire of the Word has come to destroy evil and bring peace between God and his people. Jesus warns that his fire will bring division between believer and unbeliever, even within that most intimate of human relationships, the family. How can Jesus wish such division were already happening? He can only say that because he knows its final purpose: the salvation and purifying of believers.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 23:23-29

With the Kingdom of Judah moving ever closer to judgment, Jeremiah proclaims the Lord's condemnation of false prophets. These false prophets had led the people into idolatry, claiming to speak in the name of the Lord. But there is comfort for the faithful: the true Word of the Lord comes like a hammer to crush and like a fire to refine. It is only through such sin-crushing and soul-refining work that we find eternal righteousness in the Word of truth.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 12:1-13

Running the race of life requires perseverance because the Word of God brings division and persecution and violence. There will be hardships that cause the heart to grow weary. But God promises that these trials—even to the point of shedding of blood—are meant for our good. They are God's way of disciplining us as his

sons. The result will be a harvest of righteousness in our lives and peace in our hearts. The Christian faces the hardships of life head on by fixing his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Our struggle is against sin and for Christ—so strengthen your feeble arms and your weak knees, focus on the examples of the saints who have gone before us, and run the race.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 KINGS 11:1-3, 12-18

The sins of greed and idolatry can permeate the very fabric of a family and rip it apart. As the faithful fight to hold to the truth of the will of God, relationships may be forever destroyed. The wicked will answer for their sin and receive its penalty. The righteous will live by faith with souls forever protected in the Lord’s free and faithful grace. With this confidence, we risk all to carry out the will of the Lord and cling to his promises.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 6:10-20

God’s Word bring division because we are at war. Marked by the cross, we are now targets for extra effort on the part of evil. We have no choice; we must give battle. But we are not without hope. As we battle, the Word of the Lord is our strength to stand firm and our full armor against the weaponry of evil. Total victory is already assured in Jesus. But “when the fight is fierce, the warfare long” (CW 551) we turn to the Spirit in prayer on behalf of ourselves, and all the saints, that the mystery of the gospel would continue to be revealed.

HYMN OF THE DAY

413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 108 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary
 111 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing
 192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay
 280 Thy Strong Word
 307 Wondrous Are Your Ways, O God
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 412 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
 429 What God Ordains Is Always Good
 443 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing
 450 God, My Lord, My Strength
 453 Come, Follow me, the Savior Spoke
 455 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You
 457 Fight the Good Fight

467 May the Mind of Christ My Savior
 474 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
 500 For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray
 504 Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father
 521 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
 523 God of Grace and God of Glory
 537 Onward, Christian Soldiers
 541 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide
 710 Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered
 746 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
 765 Day by Day
 771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
 779 I Sing as I Arise Today

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The way to heaven is narrow. Mere outward attachment to the family of God is not sufficient—only through faith in Christ can we enter heaven. The door is narrow and Christ commands us to make every effort to enter it, so the Church prays, “that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command.” Although the door is narrow, it is open to all, and the saints will come from all nations to behold the glory of the Lord.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 13:22-30	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 66:18-24	Judges 7:1-8
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 12:18-24	Romans 9:1-9
<i>Psalm</i>	72	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 13:22-30

The narrow door to eternity is open only to the spiritual children of Abraham. The Chosen Nation of Israel thought that they had every right to enter through the door. After all, they were part of the Old Covenant. But their lack of faith in Christ and reliance on themselves left them locked out from paradise. In the new Covenant, entrance into the Kingdom of God is open only to those with faith in the Christ.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 66:18-24

The chosen nation of Israel had rejected the narrow door of the Lord. Yet in this last chapter of Isaiah (along with much of the last half of Isaiah) comes the promise of spiritual and eternal deliverance. This promise comes to the faithful remnant and those who are being gathered from the ends of the earth. Even in the midst of such beautiful and invitational gospel, there is warning for those who remain in their apostasy. God’s mercy is broad and deep, but it found in only one place, the promised Messiah.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 12:18-24

The giving of the Old Covenant left the Israelites quaking in fear at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Divine justice would not leave the guilty unpunished. But the New Covenant invites all the nations to come to Mt. Zion in joyful assembly with the confidence that they have been judged innocent and made perfect through Jesus, the Messiah. Sprinkled with blood, we enter the narrow door to paradise.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JUDGES 7:1-8

Why is it so hard to remember that the good we do is not from our strength or ability, but from grace of God? If we enter the narrow door of heaven, it will not be our efforts that got us there. Yet boasting in ourselves is a common problem. The work-righteous attitude of our sinful nature seeks only to glorify self. When Gideon carried out the will of the Lord against Midian, the Lord chose only a handful to serve his purpose, so Israel couldn't boast in its own strength but only in the strength of the Lord. There are certainly those today who boast in their own spirituality and hold others to their own piety. They are confident in their own understanding and ignore their need for the Savior. Many will question the way the Lord brings about his eternal salvation. But at the end of time it will be those whom he has chosen that will accompany the Lamb to his eternal victory celebration.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 9:1-9

There is no human birthright that gives access through the narrow door. Not even being a descendant of the patriarchs would do it—only faith in Christ Jesus and the birthright given by our second birth into the true Israel of God. The Word of the Lord had gone out to the nations while Israel remained disobedient and obstinate. Even amongst such apostasy the Lord, by grace, kept a remnant of the faithful to preserve the ancestry of salvation. All believers, from all nations, will join this remnant, by grace, for eternity.

HYMN OF THE DAY

431 I Walk in Danger All the Way

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

84 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
 93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
 103 Glory Be to Jesus
 212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High
 214 Jerusalem the Golden
 215 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
 288 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace
 298 Dear Father, You Have Made Us All
 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All
 339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

384 By Grace I'm Saved
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be
 399 To God Be the Glory
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 476 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower
 539 In Christ There Is No East or West
 590 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven
 728 Jerusalem the Golden
 746 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The life of faith is one of true humility. But it is humility rendered by faith in the promise of God that those who exalt themselves on earth will be humiliated for eternity, but those who humble themselves now will be exalted.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 14:1, 7-14	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Proverbs 25:6,7	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Hebrews 13:1-8	James 2:1-13
<i>Psalm</i>	119a	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia. (Jeremiah 15:16 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 14:1, 7-14

It is difficult, perhaps, for most of us to imagine ourselves in this specific situation. We are so far removed from royalty and subjects, masters and slaves. First, Jesus speaks to the immediate situation of the banquet he was attending and the actions he saw there. But then he also drives home his point on humility with a parable. As Jesus warns against sinful pride, he warns those who would promote themselves and seek places of honor in the presence of the Host of the Heavenly banquet. Only those who humbly wait on the King's merciful acknowledgment will find eternal reward at his table. For now, the King calls on us to humbly serve those in need. This is not for personal gain. Rather, humble service to the citizens of his kingdom is a display of humble service to the King.

FIRST LESSON: PROVERBS 25:6,7

Sinful pride can be one's undoing. Better is humility in the presence of the king than humiliation in his court. These words of Solomon are nearly identical to the words of Jesus in the Gospel today. It would be easy to dismiss these words as simply dining etiquette for the royal court. But these words touch nearly every aspect of life for the believer. Humble service before the King of heaven and humble service in his kingdom mark those who will dine at the King's table for eternity.

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 13:1-8

Sad to say, humble service to those in need is not only rare in our society, it often results in surprise, even suspicion, at the unexpected kindness poured out by the heart of faith. For us who have known the mercy of the King, we cannot help but reflect humble service of the King's Son in our daily lives. Yes, our kindness will

often be ridiculed or even rejected. But we can boldly act in cheerful confidence knowing that the King acknowledges and aids us in our humble service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:1-13

These words from James reiterate the lesson from Jesus in the closing verses of the Gospel. Self-exalting pride can also be found in the display of favoritism towards those who can elevate our societal position or somehow benefit us. James warns that those who show such favoritism are self-exalting lawbreakers headed for judgment. Rather, as humble servants who have known the mercy of the King, show mercy to all those in need. For it is by the King’s mercy that we will spend eternity beyond the reach of his exacting judgment.

HYMN OF THE DAY

524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

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|---|---|
| 244 Arise, My Soul, Arise | 486 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us |
| 286 The Law Commands and Makes Us Know | 490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living |
| 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All | 491 O Master of the Loving Heart |
| 350 All Praise Be Yours | 494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds |
| 362 Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest | 499 O God of Mercy, God of Might |
| 418 My God Will Never Leave Me | 525 The Son of God, Our Christ |
| 419 If God Himself Be for Me | 526 We Are Your People |
| 424 O God, Forsake Me Not | 529 Built on the Rock |
| 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill | 602 God of Love and God of Marriage |
| 462 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways | 779 I Sing as I Arise Today |

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

For the past three Sundays we have seen that the narrow path to heaven is marked by division and humility. Yet another warning is heard this week: the life of faith may come at great personal expense. Counting the cost of discipleship leads to true wisdom.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 14:25-33	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Proverbs 9:8-12	Genesis 12:1-8
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Philemon 1:1,10-21	Philippians 3:4b-11
<i>Psalm</i>	19	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (Philippians 4:4 RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 14:25-33

Jesus warns all those who would come after him to count the cost of discipleship. Jesus' statement may seem hyperbolic to those who have been blessed with doctrinal unity within the family. But the weight of each one's cross is different. Those whose families have been ripped apart by religious differences know how heavy our Savior's cross can be. Know this; know well; know now what it takes to follow our Savior. The life of faith is certainly not for the faint of heart. Remember, however, whom we follow. We follow a Savior who carried the cross for us and for our salvation. Remembering his love leads us to follow him at any cost.

FIRST LESSON: PROVERBS 9:8-12

A righteous man may be mocked by society. But "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The heart of faith desires to grow ever more rooted in the Word of Lord and Savior, regardless of worldly wisdom and its self-destructive priorities. The righteous will live eternally while the mockers suffer eternal death. Wisdom knows both the cost of discipleship and the value of God's promised rewards.

SECOND LESSON: PHILEMON 1:1,10-21

Philemon had every societal right to demand the return of his slave, Onesimus. Yet Paul, who had already lost everything for the sake of Christ, asks Philemon to live his faith and receive Onesimus in a different way. At great personal sacrifice and financial loss to Philemon, Onesimus was to be received as a brother in Christ. Only a man who feared the Lord could see the wisdom in bearing this cost of discipleship. Yet Paul was confident not only of Philemon's obedience, but of his even greater acts of devotion.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 12:1-8

Leaving his homeland behind, Abram believed the Lord’s promise and moved a second time to the Promised Land of Canaan. Abram left safety, home, and even family behind to take possession of his inheritance. There he lived in communion with his Lord and heard the Lord’s promises again and again. So great is our Promised Land that we will willingly carry our crosses and bear any cost to follow Jesus into eternity.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-11

When Paul lists his qualifications as a son of Israel, many might have thought it was too much to leave behind and follow the Way. Paul, however, views everything differently in Christ. The NIV uses the polite term of “rubbish” to reflect Paul’s analysis of his former way of life and earthly possessions. A closer look at the Greek reveals just how little value Paul placed on such things in comparison to the “surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus [as his] Lord.” Chasing after worldly gain will only result in the loss of the soul. Rather, with faith firmly rooted in him, follow Jesus and share in his sufferings. Suffering for his sake will miraculously result in a share of his resurrection and eternal inheritance. Paul counted the cost of discipleship and God gave him both the fear of the Lord and true wisdom.

HYMN OF THE DAY

- 437 I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone
- 464 Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

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| 75 Father, Let Me Dedicate | 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me |
| 123 Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free | 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way |
| 125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke |
| 290 One Thing’s Needful | 454 I Gave My Life for Thee |
| 348 Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus | 463 Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult |
| 349 Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken |
| 355 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus | 469 Take My Life and Let It Be |
| 382 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | 481 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made |
| 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ | 510 I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus |
| 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded | 752 In Christ Alone |
| 415 Be Still, My Soul | 772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth |
| 421 All Depends on Our Possessing | |

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer loves the lost like Christ. The righteous live by faith; yet how easy it is for the righteous to slip into self-righteous judgment of other sinners, forgetting the grace that has been shown them. Today Christ calls us to love the lost like he does and rejoice over every sinner that “once was lost, but now is found.”

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 15:1-10	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 32:7-14	Hosea 3:1-5
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Timothy 1:12-17	2 Corinthians 2:5-11
<i>Psalm</i>	51a	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-10

The difference between the truly righteous and the merely self-righteous can be seen in the attitude displayed by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. The Savior of nations spent even his meal times with those clamoring to know his forgiveness, while his detractors condemned him for associating himself with such worthlessness. The temptation is to place the lost and straying on the irrecoverable list without making the effort to “seek and save.” The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin describe not only the heavenly joy at a sinner’s repentance, but the priority placed on such a recovery mission. Jesus calls us to love the lost both because of their place in the flock and because of their intrinsic worth in the eyes of God.

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 32:7-14

The account of the Golden Calf at Mt. Sinai illustrates humankind’s total depravity. At the same time, we see Moses pleading for Israel. Rather than cheering on the Lord’s divine retribution against the ungodly, we, like Moses, hold God to his promises of faithfulness to the lost and straying. In his mercy, the Lord restores the repentant heart and preserves his chosen people for eternity, even during the darkest of days.

SECOND LESSON: TIMOTHY 1:12-17

Pentecost 17-24 provides a series of readings through 1 and 2 Timothy. Few have the depth of appreciation for God’s grace as the Apostle Paul. Paul’s self-accusations of “persecutor” and “blasphemer” do not fall far short of us. Our sinful hearts, once hostile to the Lord and his love, have known the same grace poured out

so abundantly on Paul. With “the chief of sinners” we offer thanks for our rescue and rejoice in our restored position in the Father’s flock. Let us always be like Paul, who never forgot the grace shown to him, and so was always ready to love the lost with Christ’s seeking and forgiving love.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: HOSEA 3:1-5

To illustrate the Lord’s grace to idolatrous Israel, Hosea is instructed to marry and love an adulterous woman. The action of showing love to one considered so undeserving spoke a volume of God’s grace to sinners. When a sinner comes seeking to find the goodness of God, he finds the joyful and welcoming arms of our faithful God.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

Satan’s schemes can twist even the act of repentance into an opportunity to plunge a soul into the depths of despair. Will the repentant man return with heart in hand only to have that heart trampled by self-righteous hypocrites who feel they are owed their due? No, the congregation is to show Christ’s love for the lost. Forgiveness and comfort are to be given to the penitent heart rather than heaping guilt over the sinner’s head and robbing the contrite heart of the joy of salvation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 169 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
 240 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
 263 All Glory Be to God on High
 266 Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above
 272 Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive
 306 Before You, God, the Judge of All
 339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us
 359 Jesus, My Great High Priest
 360 The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want
 374 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
 375 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 379 Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

388 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven
 392 Not unto Us
 396 In Adam We Have All Been One
 432 I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb
 548 O Lord, in Prayer You Spent the Night
 569 O Christ, Our True and Only Light
 572 Send Forth, O Lord, to Every Place
 588 Abide with Me
 736 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
 739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me
 748 Lamb of God
 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me
 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate
 766 The Lord’s My Shepherd; I’ll Not Want

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer has a right relationship with worldly wealth. Faithful service to the Master is marked by faithful use of the Master's possessions.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 16:1-13	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Amos 8:4-7	Genesis 14:8-24
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Timothy 2:1-8	1 Timothy 6:6-16
<i>Psalm</i>	38	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 16:1-13

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager has caused some consternation among New Testament believers. Was the manager dishonest or was he merely taking advantage of his master's manipulation of the law of Moses? If he was dishonest, how can the Lord hold up sin as an example for faithful living? Do not miss the point. This is a "fish or cut bait" lesson being taught by the Great Teacher. Love for money or love for God are the options. Each brings with it eternal results. Those who love money will not be trusted with greater treasure. Those who love the Lord and faithfully use his possessions for kingdom work will be trusted with the eternal treasure of heaven.

FIRST LESSON: AMOS 8:4-7

The poor and needy are neglected and trampled by those itching to make money on their misfortune. The Lord does not condemn those who follow wise business practices to honestly make the most of their situation. Rather, he condemns dishonesty in business dealings, specifically as a sign of the self-serving, luxury loving attitude that rules the heart of the greedy. The LORD will not forget what they have done. He will bring them to justice on the Day of Judgment.

SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

Focus shifts from payment received to payment made. It is Jesus who used his own blood to buy back and set free all of humankind from the shackles of sin. One might describe this redemptive work as making the best use of available resources! The proclamation of this best business practice is the reason we exist.

Therefore we pray for peace in our world. Not for booming economies, this prayer begs that nothing would hinder us from proclaiming the gospel of eternal peace through Jesus.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 14:8-24

Abram comes to the rescue of his nephew Lot from the hands of Kedorlaomer and the Eastern Kings. After receiving bread and wine from Salem’s Priest-King Melchizedek, Abram credits the Lord with victory by making an offering of a tenth of the spoils. At the same time Abram declines the offer from the King of Sodom to keep all the remaining possessions. Is it not God who gives us the ability to make money and possess the things of this world? Does he not bless our efforts and prosper his people? These are resources to be used to give glory to his name and used for the accomplishment of his kingdom work.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16

Here is managerial balance for the life of faith: godliness with contentment. Love of money leads to a wandering from the faith and eternal destruction. Love for Christ results in fighting “the good fight” in this world in the sure hope of serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords now and into eternity. (Worship planners, note that this is the regularly appointed Second Lesson for Pentecost 19 C.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

421 All Depends on Our Possessing

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 216 Saints, Behold! The Sight Is Glorious
 239 Glory Be to God the Father
 240 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
 244 Arise, My Soul, Arise
 266 Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above
 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns
 408 Christians, While on Earth Abiding
 414 I Leave All Things to God’s Direction
 423 Not in Anger, Mighty God
 452 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
 457 Fight the Good Fight
 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
 459 O God, My Faithful God

469 Take My Life and Let It Be
 477 What Is the World to Me
 480 Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth
 481 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made
 484 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly
 485 We Give Thee But Thine Own
 492 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love
 609 We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer
 745 May the Peace of God
 750 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate
 762 Consider How the Birds Above
 785 O Lord of Nations, Hear Our Prayer

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Real wealth is found in heavenly treasure. Earthly riches are not a reward for doing good, but rather an opportunity to do good.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 16:19-31	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Amos 6:1-7	Ecclesiastes 5:8-20
<i>Second Lesson</i>	1 Timothy 6:6-16	Revelation 2:8-11
<i>Psalm</i>	146	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia. (Philippians 2:10,11 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 16:19-31

The rich man loved his wealth more than doing the will of the Lord: helping those in need. Hoarding of wealth for one's own pampering manifests the poverty of one's soul. In a heartbeat, the greedy will go from extravagance to begging for mercy. But it is too late. Not even their wealth will buy them relief. Here is also comfort for the righteous poor. Though not blessed with wealth in this life, they will have good things forever in paradise.

FIRST LESSON: AMOS 6:1-7

The rich of the two kingdoms were using their wealth to live in luxury rather than to bring about spiritual restoration. They dined on choice meat and fine wine while the chosen House of Israel was falling into spiritual ruin and headed for divine judgment. How the Lord would have poured forth blessings on them from the storehouses of heaven had they put the Lord and his kingdom work first in their hearts. Instead, they chose luxury over love and destruction over deliverance.

SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16

Godliness with contentment leads the faithful steward to a life marked by faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Content with our needs, we make faithful use of the Lord's blessings to carry out his kingdom work. Use of money for God's loving purposes, avoids the love of money itself. We, then, fight the good fight to break the grasp of mammon and take hold of the eternal life to which we are called.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ECCLESIASTES 5:8-20

Solomon instructs his listeners on faithful work combined with gratitude to God. Hoarded wealth brings only harm to its owner. Earthly wealth is fleeting; to chase after it is as fruitless as chasing after the wind.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 2:8-11

To the church in Smyrna: Here is comfort for the faithful who find themselves on the side of the poor and oppressed. In spite of physical poverty and persecution, lasting wealth is found only in Jesus, our priceless treasure. He has guaranteed for the faithful a “crown of life.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 99 Oh, Come, My Soul | 422 Jesus, Lead Us On |
| 170 Draw Us to Thee | 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart |
| 184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In | 444 If You But Trust in God to Guide You |
| 207 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near | 452 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus |
| 210 Who Knows When Death | 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke |
| 216 Saints, Behold! The Sight Is Glorious | 457 Fight the Good Fight |
| 235 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him | 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill |
| 239 Glory Be to God the Father | 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose |
| 240 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise | 474 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus |
| 244 Arise, My Soul, Arise | 477 What Is the World to Me |
| 253 I Will Sing My Maker's Praises | 482 Forgive Us, Lord |
| 281 God Has Spoken by His Prophets | 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life |
| 329 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing | 549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band |
| 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns | 606 For Me to Live Is Jesus |
| 364 My Heart Is Longing | 745 May the Peace of God |
| 421 All Depends on Our Possessing | 762 Consider How the Birds Above |

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

It is the believer's duty to abstain from sin, give forgiveness, and serve our neighbor. It is a privilege to do our duty as Christians, but we are weak. The Church, therefore, prays that God would make us ready to do with a cheerful heart that which pleases him.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 17:1-10	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Habakkuk 1:1-3, 2:1-4	1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-18
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Timothy 1:3-14	Romans 6:15-23
<i>Psalm</i>	27	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 17:1-10

Repentance and forgiveness mark the believer's life of faith. Knowledge of one's own forgiveness in Jesus leads to a forgiving heart and thanksgiving to the King of Grace. Jesus again uses the imagery of master and servants to illustrate the relationship between the Lord and believers. Service to the Lord must never lead to self-righteousness. Rather, we do our duty by abstaining from sin, giving forgiveness, and serving our neighbor.

FIRST LESSON: HABAKKUK 1:1-3, 2:1-4

With the world crumbling into ruin and evil seemingly unchecked, the believer is tempted to question God's power or God's providence. But the Christian is called to do his duty. We are to stand and watch and wait for God's answer to all our questions. The Word of the Lord comes to comfort and command. The deliverance of God's people is at hand. Stand at the ready and proclaim his Word. Have confidence that the Lord's judgment is coming and along with it, his salvation. This is how the righteous will live: by faith.

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14

Because of the grace given us through our Lord Jesus, we are called to serve the Lord's kingdom. Like Paul, Timothy, and the saints of the ages we do our duty by guarding the faith and proclaiming the truth. This truth of God's grace in Christ has now been fulfilled and revealed. Look at all the imperatives Paul speaks to

this young pastor! The Apostle encourages Timothy and all Christians to do our duty and serve Christ who called us because of his own purpose and grace.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: CHRONICLES 29:1-2, 10-18

Faithful servants do their duty with joy and gratitude. David rejoices before the assembly of the people that such gifts have been given and dedicated for the building of the Lord’s temple. At the same time, David rejoices that the Lord has given his people the opportunity to give these gifts. Everything comes from the Lord’s hand, and it is our duty to serve him and his kingdom.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 6:15-23

Oh, how we have been slaves to the sinful nature, giving into temptation and harboring hostility for our righteous and holy God! This slavery to sin would have led to our eternal death. Indeed, our connection with sin will result in our temporal death. But this condition will not end in final death. The gift of God’s eternal life has come through Jesus. Our suffering servant has freed us. No longer are we slaves to sin. We have been freed for righteousness in faithful service to our heavenly Master. Now let us do our duty and serve him by abstaining from sin, giving forgiveness, and serving our neighbor.

HYMN OF THE DAY

181 Come, Oh, Come, Life-Giving Spirit

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

102 Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains
 141 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
 226 To Your Temple I Draw Near
 258 Now Let All Loudly
 261 We Sing the Almighty Power of God
 347 Jesus! and Shall It Ever Be
 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 423 Not in Anger, Mighty God

424 O God, Forsake Me Not
 444 If You But Trust in God to Guide You
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 459 O God, My Faithful God
 484 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly
 496 Glorious in Majesty
 713 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son
 732 We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light
 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me
 767 The Lord Is My Light

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Cleansed of sin the life of the believer is one of thanksgiving for deliverance now and into eternity.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 17:11-19	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Ruth 1:1-19a	1 Samuel 12:20-24
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Timothy 2:8-13	2 Corinthians 1:8-11
<i>Psalm</i>	111	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. Alleluia. (Isaiah 25:9b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 17:11-19

Cries for mercy are answered by a heart filled with compassion. Those once separated by sickness are welcomed back. Yet only one returns to give thanks to his Savior for deliverance. Whether it's leprosy of the body or leprosy of the soul, Jesus has cleansed the afflicted. In his compassion for those diseased by sin, he has given his life to restore our membership in the family of our Father. By faith, our hearts are now moved to thankfulness for the healing hand of our gracious Lord. Our whole lives will be filled with thanksgiving.

FIRST LESSON: RUTH 1:1-19A

The Lord had brought Naomi and her daughters-in-law through the hardship of their husbands' deaths. On hearing that the Lord had come to the aid of his starving people, Naomi readies herself for the journey back home. Though she had two daughters-in-law, only one went with her. In faith, Ruth clings to her mother-in-law, determined to remain with her and with the Lord. Such loyalty is honorable, even by earthly standards. Yet our loyalty to each other and to the Lord is not a matter of honor, but a matter of faith. In thanksgiving our very lives are dedicated to the Lord and his service.

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13

Paul urges Timothy to always remember the deliverance found in Jesus Christ. Because of this gospel message Paul is in chains. Yet it is this very message that gives him strength to remain and endure in anticipation of eternal glory. Paul quotes a hymn that reminds Christians that we will live with Christ and we will reign with Christ. That is the reason Paul can be thankful always—even in chains. That is the same hope that fills our lives with thanksgiving as we live for the Lord and await his reward.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 12:20-24

At Saul’s coronation, Samuel gives his farewell speech to Israel. Helping Israel to recognize its sin of idolatry, Samuel encourages faithfulness to the Lord in remembrance of the Lord’s promised deliverance both past and future. As recipients of the Lord’s gracious salvation, we do not forget what God has done. Rather, heartfelt thanksgiving and fearless devotion to him and his people mark our lives of faith.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11

The prayers of the saints rise up to heaven as Paul found himself in deadly peril. How many days have come and gone that have found us uncertain of the future? We find ourselves in circumstances that leave us excessively burdened, questioning how we will survive. And then the Lord’s deliverance comes. He who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will raise us up from deadly peril and hardship, causing thanksgiving in our hearts and in the hearts of many others. Because our hope is founded on his promise, our thanks pour forth both now and into eternity.

HYMN OF THE DAY

520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

106 Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain
 217 The Head that Once Was Crowned
 236 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
 238 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul
 253 I Will Sing My Maker’s Praises
 259 When All Your Mercies, O My God
 353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
 388 Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

399 To God Be the Glory
 413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need
 482 Forgive Us, Lord
 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life
 610 Now Thank We All Our God
 615 We Thank You for Your Blessings
 777 Now Let Us All in Hymns of Praise

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

The believer prays persistently.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 18:1-8a	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 32:22-30	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Timothy 3:14—4:5	1 John 5:13-15
<i>Psalm</i>	121	40
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, keep your household, the Church, in continual godliness and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia. (Ephesians 2:10a)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 18:1-8A

The persistent widow was determined: she would receive justice, even from a *corrupt* judge. Her determination kept her begging for justice day after day. In the end she received her due even from a judge with no fear of God and no respect for his fellow man. Learn a lesson in prayerful persistence: How much more will our heavenly Father work justice and bring deliverance to those determined in prayer!

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 32:22-30

His old name meant “heel-grabber,” but he was about to get a new name, “Israel, the one who wrestles with God.” Jacob found himself faced by a large force of men with his brother Esau. Uncertain of what the future held, Jacob turned to the Lord in prayer. Thankful for the blessings showered on him by the God of the Covenant, he calls on the name of the Lord for protection. As Jacob wrestled with God on the banks of the Jabbok, so Christ invites us to wrestle with God in prayer. Let us be determined to hold our heavenly Father to his promises. This is our privilege and duty won by him who struggled and has overcome the gates of hell itself.

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14—4:5

In this lesson from the continuing series of readings from the epistles to Timothy, the inspired Word of the Lord testifies to the truth, changes hearts, and equips believers for lives of faithful service. As the world around us panders to whatever it wants to hear, it rejects the absolute truth of sin and grace. Yet, steeped in the Word, we are determined to proclaim the Word of the Lord to the benefit of God’s holy people.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:13-15

We can pray persistently because we have confidence in our salvation and confidence that our God hears us. There is no uncertainty here. We know that whatever we ask according to the Father's will is as good as in our possession.

HYMN OF THE DAY

448 In You, O Lord, I Put My Trust

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

189 Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore You

199 In Trembling Hands, Lord God, We Hold

284 How Precious Is the Book Divine

291 We Have a Sure Prophetic Word

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded

425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise

430 Evening and Morning

435 The Will of God Is Always Best

444 If You But Trust in God to Guide You

472 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

478 With the Lord Begin Your Task

517 Almighty Father, Strong to Save

544 Preach You the Word

585 While Yet the Morn Is Breaking

587 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

595 Before the Ending of the Day

781 I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

God calls the believer to First Commandment faith that serves God above all.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 18:18-27	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	Joshua 7:1, 19-26
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	1 John 2:15-17
<i>Psalm</i>	119b	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church, as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Alleluia.
(2 Timothy 4:18 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 18:18-27

The rich ruler served his wealth rather than God. Brought face-to-face with his own idolatry, he went away deeply saddened. He could not put his Savior above all else. Regardless of whether or not we consider ourselves rich, the struggle to put discipleship ahead of the world remains. Yet even the seemingly impossible is possible with God.

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 10:12-22

After forty years of wandering, Moses speaks to the people, retelling their history since Egypt. Again and again the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, has come to our aid and demonstrated his love for his people from the greatest to the least. Every time we see and hear the mercy and grace of God, the Spirit works in us a First Commandment faith. Now fear and serve the LORD with all your heart and soul.

SECOND LESSON: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

Paul recognizes that his time on earth is short. The Lord is about to bring glory to his own name through Paul's martyrdom. Yet what is in store for Paul is a crown of righteousness from the Lord's gracious hand. There are those who put their own safety ahead of service to God and support for his kingdom work. But for those who put him first, the Lord is faithful and will bring us to his heavenly kingdom. Paul had spent a life in ministry serving Christ above all; now he looked forward to the end of the fight, the rest from the race, and the receipt of the crown.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 7:1, 19-26

Even while on a mission for the Lord, Achan gave priority to his own greed over carrying out the will of the Lord. In so doing he brought guilt on all Israel and judgment on his own head. Our stealing from God may not be so blatant as pulling money from the offering. But what do we withhold from the Lord for the sake of luxury? How often does a balanced checkbook come at the expense of our offerings? As difficult as it seems, we can put the Lord first in our lives. With the miraculous working of the Spirit in our hearts comes the joy of serving the Lord in full obedience and with a whole heart. To us and through Jesus, the narrow way is wide open.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 2:15-17

John warns the faithful not to love the world because it leaves no room to love the Father. The things of this world that call out for our love are not from God and will not last. But the man who serves God above all will live forever.

HYMN OF THE DAY

306 Before You, God, the Judge of All

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 185 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace | 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults |
| 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See | 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded |
| 285 The Ten Commandments Are the Law | 421 All Depends on Our Possessing |
| 286 The Law Commands and Makes Us Know | 457 Fight the Good Fight |
| 287 The Law of God Is Good and Wise | 460 How Can I Thank You, Lord |
| 305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You | 463 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult |
| 355 Take the World, but Give Me Jesus | 477 What Is the World to Me |
| 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice | 755 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious
Treasure |
| 378 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall | 757 Where Your Treasure Is |
| 383 Blessed Are They, Forever Blest | 772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth |
| 384 By Grace I'm Saved | |
| 390 Salvation unto Us Has Come | |
| 392 Not unto Us | |

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Half Year of the Church concludes with the foundation for the believer's life of faith. Here is our power and motivation for living the Christian life; here is the comfort when we fail: the Lord is the Savior of sinners.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 19:1-10	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Exodus 34:5-9	Micah 7:18-20
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11,12	Romans 5:6-11
<i>Psalm</i>	145	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, forgive the wrongdoing of your people and be gentle with us in our weakness. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin and direct us to the path of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alleluia. (2 Peter 3:18a cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 19:1-10

Jesus seeks out Zacchaeus in the tree and invites himself into Zacchaeus' heart and home. No sin is so evil, no guilt is so great as to turn away our Savior's seeking love. Salvation came to Zacchaeus' home that day even as Salvation has come to us. In humble joy we welcome him and his presence that brings about an immediate response of faith. Zacchaeus may have been one of Abraham's descendants by blood, but he and all of us are children of Abraham by faith. Praise be to God that Christ is the Savior of sinners.

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 34:5-9

Moses appears before the Lord to plead for mercy on behalf of the rebellious and idolatrous Israelites. Though the Lord warns of judgment against the guilty, he proclaims the meaning of his name to be the God of free and faithful grace. The chosen nation of Israel had already wandered from the Lord, but he comes with forgiveness to those who repent. These words appear again and again in the inspired pages of scripture as the LORD again and again, fulfilling the meaning of his own name and restoring the spirit of his children. The LORD is the Savior of sinners.

SECOND LESSON: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5, 11,12

Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faithfulness to the Lord even in the midst of trial and persecution. Paul says this is evidence that God's judgment is right. He had forgiven them and called them his own children. God's grace meant glory for Christ in them and glory for them in Christ.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: MICAH 7:18-20

Who is a God like you? You delight to show mercy! In the last days of the Kingdom of Israel and with judgment looming for the Kingdom of Judah, Micah proclaims the joy the Lord will take in bringing Salvation to the remnant of the House of Israel. Because Salvation has now come, children of Abraham throughout the ages have known the only true God and the mercy he shows. The LORD is the Savior of sinners and in his compassion he treads sin under foot and hurls iniquities into the sea.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:6-11

The gracious planning of our faithful Lord is fulfilled and the Salvation of our God has come, but not to souls deserving of a place in the Kingdom of heaven. No, Jesus came to seek and save enemies and sinners, to find those who could be made righteous only by grace. To us, then, the love of the Lord been shown. Such is the message of reconciliation: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” This change has been accomplished through his death, and even more so, through his life. This is our joy and confidence: the Lord is the Savior of sinners.

HYMN OF THE DAY

391 God Loved the World So that He Gave

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 120 What Wondrous Love Is This
 185 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace
 256 How Great Thou Art
 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession
 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive
 313 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior
 336 Come unto Me, Ye Weary
 339 Today Your Mercy Calls Us
 346 In You Is Gladness
 366 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild
 380 Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be
 386 Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation
 409 Come, My Soul, with Every Care

425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise
 443 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing
 446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
 496 Glorious in Majesty
 499 O God of Mercy, God of Might
 561 Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak
 569 O Christ, Our True and Only Light
 599 Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day
 612 Praise to God, Immortal Praise
 613 Come, You Thankful People, Come
 616 Feed Your Children, God Most Holy
 617 Christ, by Heavenly Hosts Adored
 713 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son
 733 Rejoice in God

End Time

After journeying through the Sundays of Pentecost examining the life of faith, the season of End Time marks the end the Church Year. These are Sundays of promise:

THE PROMISES OF END TIME

<i>Reformation</i>	<i>“The truth will set you free.”</i>
<i>Last Judgment</i>	<i>“To everyone who has, more will be given.”</i>
<i>Saints Triumphant</i>	<i>“...they can no longer die...for they are children of the resurrection.”</i>
<i>Christ the King</i>	<i>“...you will be with me in paradise.”</i>

These promises give strength and hope to the faithful as we anticipate standing firm until our time of grace has come to end and beginning anew in the eternal presence of Christ our King.

First Sunday of End Time—Reformation Sunday

It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings true freedom. This promise of forgiveness and resurrection to eternal life come only through a righteousness found in the Savior. This righteousness sets the soul free from slavery, free to serve God. Hold to these teachings, and “you will be free indeed.”

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 8:31-36	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Romans 3:19-28	
<i>Psalm</i>	46	
<i>Color</i>	Red	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia. (John 8:31,32 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 8:31-36

Holding to the Word of the Lord is a fruit of faith that demonstrates the reality of our discipleship. Stepping outside the truth of scripture invalidates this status. This is no small task in our world of subjective truth and unionism. But with discipleship comes understanding and the knowledge of the true mystery of Christ. With this knowledge comes freedom. No more are we slaves to sin. We are free to live before God in righteousness and holiness as his children, members of his house forever.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Through Jeremiah, the Lord describes the new covenant established by the promised Messiah, the covenant that has been established with us. The two-sided covenant of old is no more. God had been faithful; Israel had not. The new covenant is a promise signed in the blood of the Christ. This new covenant is now revealed to nations. The teachings and promises of the Lord will be written on hearts and minds and sin will be remembered “no more.” For the Lord’s righteousness will come to hearts of faith.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 3:19-28

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he writes of both Law and Gospel. He writes of God's anger against sin and God's righteousness given through Jesus. Here, at this transitional point, is the promise of Jesus' righteousness and the freedom he brings. Yes, freedom from sin and freedom to live in all righteousness comes to us who live by faith. We have been declared innocent, and no law will shackle us again. Now we live for him who has set us free.

HYMN OF THE DAY

390 Salvation unto Us Has Come

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

123 Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free
 200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 201 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
 204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word
 287 The Law of God Is Good and Wise
 291 We Have a Sure Prophetic Word
 293 God's Word is Our Great Heritage
 317 O Lord, We Praise You
 340 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 356 You Are the Way; through You Alone
 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
 377 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
 378 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

392 Not unto Us
 393 If Your Beloved Son, O God
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults
 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ
 415 Be Still, My Soul
 514 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain
 523 God of Grace and God of Glory
 529 Built on the Rock
 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life
 541 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide
 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give
 546 Lord Jesus, You Have Come
 621 For Years on Years of Matchless Grace

Second Sunday of End Time—Last Judgment

Our risen and ascended Lord will return to “judge the living and the dead.” But we will not fear. We will stand before the Judge of all, confident of our innocence in Jesus.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 19:11-27	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 26:1-6	Ezekiel 9:1-11
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Thessalonians 1:5-10	
<i>Psalm</i>	90	
<i>Color</i>	Red	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matthew 24:42 RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 19:11-27

In the parable of the minas, the king returns, calling on his servants to give an account. Our King will return to judge. Those who opposed him and wasted the gifts he has given will have to give an account. All that awaits them is eternal death. But we will stand before the King with all confidence. For our account will be marked by the perfection of Christ and the power of the Spirit to be faithful stewards. In words of grace we will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 26:1-6

The Lord’s judgment is coming, and quickly. He is coming to bring final and destructive judgment on those who refuse to listen to his Word. But he offers deliverance if we turn from our evil ways. We need not fear the coming wrath. We rejoice that in Christ, we are considered faithful followers of his law and heirs of his kingdom.

SECOND LESSON: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10

Few cases see a courthouse in these days of litigation. Plea bargains are made and deals are cut. Innocent defendants would rather pay off plaintiffs than risk losing in a court of law. Many are banking on cutting a deal in the courtroom on the Last Day. Surely they were good enough. Surely they were better than most people. But when the Lord Jesus is revealed as judge, his ruling will be just: Those who neither acknowledge

nor obey him will be punished. But those who have acknowledged him in faith will marvel at his majesty and will be brought to glory.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 9:1-11

Ezekiel is taken by the hair to see the detestable acts of Israel's idolatry. (Chapter 8) The tour of idolatrous Jerusalem over, Ezekiel sees the coming of the Lord's judgment as carried out through the seven angels. As judgment approaches we stand confident before the coming wrath. By grace we bear the mark of deliverance and will be spared the destruction about to take place. According to the promise of the Lord we will join him in the New Jerusalem while the idolaters are struck down without pity.

HYMN OF THE DAY

456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
 74 Now Let Us Come before Him
 206 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
 207 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near
 208 Great God, What Do I See and Hear
 209 Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning
 337 Delay Not! Delay Not
 441 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

475 The Man Is Ever Blest
 484 Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly
 525 The Son of God, Our Christ
 560 I Hear the Savior Calling
 704 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
 731 The King Will Come at Age's End
 779 I Sing as I Arise Today

Third Sunday of End Time—Saints Triumphant

The relationship between God and his saints will last into eternity.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 20:27-38	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 65:17-25	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5	Revelation 22:1-5
<i>Psalm</i>	150	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (Revelation 7:15a)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 20:27-38

Jesus turns the Sadducees' test into a proclamation of resurrection promise. In talking to Moses, the LORD referred to the patriarchs in the present, though they had long been "dead." The saints' relationship with the Lord does not end in death, it continues into eternal life. For we are "God's living children...children of the resurrection."

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 65:17-25

Though there will no peace for the wicked, the Lord promises peace to his saints in the New Jerusalem. Here we will dwell with the Lord forever as he takes joy and delight in *us*! Effects of sin like death and crying will be "the former things." They will be long forgotten, counted among the casualties of restoration. In joy will we carry out the activities of faithful living to the glory of our heavenly Companion. This relationship began at our baptism and finishes in eternity.

SECOND LESSON: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13—3:5

Descriptive words of our beautiful relationship with the Lord Jesus abound in this section of Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. Paul is inspired to use such words as "loved, chosen, saved, called, sanctified." Yes, our relationship with Jesus began even before the foundations of the earth were laid. Chosen in him to be blameless, we have been connected to him through baptism, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and

strengthened to stand firm both in and with him until the end. But this is merely our new beginning, promised to those who put their faith in Jesus, the Lover of our souls.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 22:1-5

This lesson serves as a wonderful complement to the lesson from Isaiah, particularly the further description of the New Jerusalem. The vastness of this heavenly city is beyond our comprehension, even us who have been chosen to be its residents. This is our home “forever and ever.” But we will not live in suburbs, distanced from him who loves us and calls us by name. No, we who bear his name will serve our Bridegroom in his presence. We will behold his face. And he will invite us to reign alongside him forever.

HYMN OF THE DAY

207 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

145 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won
 167 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense
 170 Draw Us to Thee
 214 Jerusalem the Golden
 218 Then the Glory
 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See
 222 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang
 247 Earth and All Stars
 256 How Great Thou Art
 277 God, We Praise You
 331 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 417 I’m But a Stranger Here
 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart
 438 In God, My Faithful God

549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band
 550 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
 551 For All the Saints
 552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
 714 The Lamb
 727 There Is a Higher Throne
 728 Jerusalem the Golden
 729 There Is a Blessed Home
 730 Blessed Are They
 753 Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us
 754 The Tree of Life
 771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
 776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
 784 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near
 788 Thanks Be to God!

Last Sunday of End Time—Christ the King

The Church Year ends with the lasting song of triumph for Christ our King. The promise is sure: We will live with him in his kingdom, rejoicing in his goodness and resting in his eternal peace.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 23:35-43	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Jeremiah 23:2-6	Genesis 49:8-12
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 1:13-20	
<i>Psalm</i>	98	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.
(Revelation 22:13)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 23:35-43

Hardly a vision of triumph as the King of the Jews hangs from the cross. Taunted, jeered, and battered, the King of kings offers his life for the very ones that have so abused him and made such sacrifice necessary. Even in the midst of suffering for the sins of the world, the promise comes to the repentant heart that longs to be remembered in his kingdom: "...you will be with me in paradise." See our king: suffering, dying, forgiving, redeeming.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 23:2-6

Imagine a king who cares about a sheep. A king may care about vast herds of sheep, shorn for the purpose of raising wealth. But this, our Shepherd-King, loves each of his sheep to the point of calling us by name. This Shepherd-King will come to bring us to safe pastures. There we will live with him in his kingdom of peace and righteousness.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:13-20

Our Savior-King has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into his kingdom of light. John clarifies this in the opening chapter of his gospel. Even as the first rays of light burst forth in the opening moments of creation, so the light of Christ has dissipated the darkness of sin that enveloped his perfect world. The darkness neither understood what happened nor could it overpower the light. But those on whom that light shined stand "redeemed, restored, forgiven." (CW 388) Our Light, Our King reigns supreme.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 49:8-12

Could Jacob have known the full weight of his words? Did Judah see beyond himself and the generations of royalty who would come from him to the Lion of Judah? The royal line to follow would be scarred by idolatry and weakness. The throne of Judah would be toppled and its kings punished at the hands of Judah's enemies. But the rule of great David's greater Son will be marked by vengeance on his enemies, the eternal establishment of his rule, and unending prosperity. This is Jesus – our Lord, our Savior, our King.

HYMN OF THE DAY

392 Not unto Us

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

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| 25 The King Shall Come | 351 Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus |
| 29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | 363 The King of Glory Comes |
| 30 Rise, Arise | 370 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name |
| 47 Behold, a Branch Is Growing | 373 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful |
| 85 O God from God, O Light from Light | 536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head |
| 93 Hail to The Lord's Anointed | 579 Lift High the Cross |
| 154 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks | 704 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending |
| 174 See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph | 713 In Silent Pain the Eternal Son |
| 214 Jerusalem the Golden | 714 The Lamb |
| 217 The Head that Once Was Crowned | 715 What Grace Is This! |
| 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See | 727 There Is a Higher Throne |
| 227 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs | 728 Jerusalem the Golden |
| 239 Glory Be to God the Father | 729 There Is a Blessed Home |
| 245 Sing a New Song to the Lord | 730 Blessed Are They |
| 247 Earth and All Stars | 731 The King Will Come at Age's End |
| 277 God, We Praise You | 737 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It |
| 278 Holy God, We Praise Your Name | 751 Word of God, When All Was Silent |
| 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns | 787 A Canticle to the Lamb |
| 350 All Praise Be Yours | |

