

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ludington, Michigan

Welcome in the name of Jesus!
We're so glad you chose to worship with us this morning.
May Gods' Spirit touch us all through His Word today
and through the love of His people. Nothing is too hard for our God!
If you are physically unable to stand for any or all of the worship service,
please feel free to remain seated.

*(Assistive Listening is available –
Ask for a Sound Mate personal listening system)*

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 23

What Are You Seeking?

October 10, 2021



AS WE GATHER

One of the best ways to commit passages of Scripture to memory is by learning to sing them. “Seek Ye First” (*LSB* 712) supplies a trio of passages taken from Matthew. The first of the three is a section of what is known as the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus counsels His hearers, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of God truly is found by those whom the Lord has sought and claimed as His own. By God’s grace in Jesus, those “found people” include us. With hymnwriter Henry Baker, who beautifully paraphrased Psalm 23, we can sing, “Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me” (*LSB* 709:3). Happiness is being found!

✕ PREPARATION ✕

HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” #901 vs 1,2,5

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 123:1, 3a; 124:8; 126:3*

Pastor: To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!
People: **Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
People: **The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

People: **We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not always honored those in authority over us. We have done violence to others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 112:3–6; antiphon: v. 1*

HYMN “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” #816

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, continue transforming our lives into invitations that summon people to the love of Christ, so that Your full blessing would come to all for whom He died, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:6–7, 10–15 (Seek the Lord and live.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Hebrews 3:12–19 (A warning against the danger of evils in life)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Galatians 6:2*

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 10:17–22*

(Jesus has a conversation with a rich young man.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Seek Ye First” #712

SERMON Falling Behind: Off to a good start! Pastor Dave

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

OFFERING & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Response)

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We sing our Lord’s Prayer:

“Lord’s Prayer”

HFG 440

**Our Father, which art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SEQUENCE *Deuteronomy 6:6–7*

Pastor: One of the blessings of each hour of the day is that we can surround ourselves with the Word of God. In Deuteronomy, God’s people were told directly, “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God” #895

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Music Director: Daniel M. Meyers
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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.