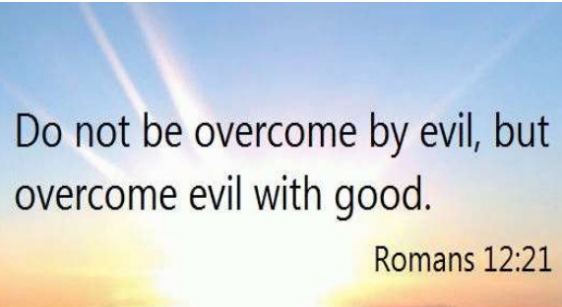


30 August 2020  
13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.

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Do not be overcome by evil, but  
overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

### Collect

*Oh God, source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every good virtue and bring to completion good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.*

### Introit

Delight yourself | in the LORD,\* and he will give you the desires | of your heart. **Commit your way | to the LORD;\* trust in him, and | he will act.** He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,\* and your justice as the | noonday. **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for him;\* fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil de- | vices!** **Glory to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.** Delight yourself | in the LORD,\* and he will give you the desires | of your heart.

### Readings

**Old Testament/**Jeremiah 15:15–21    **Epistle/Romans** 12:9–21    **Gospel/Matthew** 16:21–28

#### *The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus*

- After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this “*theology of the cross,*” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “*theology of glory.*”
- But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20).
- By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

### Stewardship

**Matt. 16:26** – “**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?**”

He who dies with the most toys ... is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in the home, church, and society as loving, generous people.

Those who don’t know the Lord are afraid to be generous because they think that what they give away is lost to them. But we who know the Lord know that the things of this world become true blessings when they are used for God’s Kingdom.

## Sermon Notes

### + Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost + **A Christian Response to: Politics.**

2 Samuel 23:3. Exodus 18:21. Proverbs 29:2. Micah 6:8. Exodus 18:21

- “He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.”
- “But choose capable men from all the people, men who fear God, men you can trust, men who hate corruption. Place them over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.
  - “When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice.”

When we listen to the wisdom of God’s Word about our life together in the City of Man, we will find that a Christian response to politics involves choosing men of proven capabilities who fear God, who have earned the trust of their neighbors and who hate corruption – so that we may live peaceful, godly lives and freely spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

#### **1. God raises up those who rule in justice and the fear of God.**

- a. The last words of King David:
- b. What does God require of us? Micah 6:8

#### **2. God raises up those who tremble at His Word**

- a. Capable men: fearing God, earning trust, hating corruption
- b. God’s solution to original sin: local government: Exodus 18:21

#### **3. God raises up the righteous so His people may rejoice**

- a. God governs so that all may be rescued from sin and death
- b. People rejoice when they learn to walk in God’s paths

## Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

*“We believe a faith once delivered, not one renegotiated every generation.”*

Scripture is replete with references, commands, and exhortations to **hold fast to the faith delivered to you**, to the tradition, to the Apostles' doctrine, *koinonia*, *eucharistia*, and prayers... and this gives us a commitment to continue in the truth—and not futile efforts to become relevant—forms the basis of a Christian witness that has the evangelical power to make a dramatic difference in the world.

We believe a faith once delivered, not one renegotiated every generation. A truth powerful enough to refashion the world, not one remolded in accord with changing political or moral or cultural fashions.

- “Hold fast,” St. Paul urges, to “that word which I preached to you” (1 Cor 15:2).
- Again: “Stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught.” (2 Thess. 2:15).
- This urgent exhortation echoes through the Bible: “Let us hold fast to our confession” (Heb. 4:14).
- In the book of Revelation, the voice of the Lord says to the churches that await his final triumph: “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” (Rev. 3:11).

Prayer of the Church. Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. 30 August 2020.

Knowing the will of God that all would come to the knowledge of Your Son and find salvation in Christ, let us pray on behalf of our parish community and for all people according to their needs.

For our faith and faithfulness, especially for those persecuted for the cause of Christ; and  
For our strength in time of trial and for us to persevere in grace in the day of trouble, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, Jerusalem on high, our mother in Christ until Christ is fully formed in us;  
For the pastors who serve us, that they may be faithful stewards of God's mysteries; and  
For those at home and abroad, who bring the message of salvation to those who have not heard, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Donald, our president; Bill, our governor; and all legislators and civil servants;  
For those who must render judgment and impose punishment upon lawbreakers; and  
For those who work for peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather and for those who tend the soil and harvest its fruits;  
For business and industry, service workers and artisans;  
For generosity toward those in need; and  
For the unemployed and underemployed, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those married, that they would live in fidelity to their vows and promises;  
For parents as they teach their children to know and love the Lord;  
For single adults, that they may find fulfillment in their service to others; and  
For our lives together showing the love of Christ one to another, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to take up the cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads;  
For courage in the face of challenge and adversity; and  
For compassion and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For holy lives of faith;  
For faith to receive the Lord's gift of His flesh and blood in the Holy Sacrament; and  
For this holy assembly, that we may present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our remembrance of the saints and grace to follow their example of faith;  
For God to grant us a place with them in their fellowship; and  
For our eternal life in God's kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, You have forgiven our sins and delivered us from death through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Continue to pour out Your mercy upon us, and grant to us all good things needful to this body and life and keep from us all things harmful. From You, through You and to You are all things, O Lord, holy Father, mighty God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Holy Spirit, You are one Lord, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**