

*For the week of Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> through September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

### **Notes for the Week — A Fall Like Lightning, Matthew 16:21–28**

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out the seventy-two to proclaim the kingdom of God. When they return, they were amazed that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name. Jesus told them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you," (18-19).

Last week we heard Peter make the great confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus declared Peter blessed as this was the Father's revelation. Upon Peter's confession the Church is built and the gates of hell shall never prevail against it. In this confession of Jesus there is the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Such a great a great exultation from Jesus, yet from this great height Peter fell like lightning. As soon as Jesus revealed *how* the forgiveness of sins would be found in this confession of Jesus, 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," Peter rebuked him. "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

"But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'" The Father revealed who Jesus is, but when it came to receiving what that revelation meant, Peter fell from faith to rely on his own flesh and blood. In this fall Peter stood condemned, doing the work of Satan himself. It is true, Satan can not pluck Peter from Christ, but Peter chose to fling himself right into Satan's hand.

Jesus told him, and all the disciples, that if they are to remain in eternal life which they received from the Father, then they must crucify their flesh to trust in Christ and His work for their salvation. This is a hard thing. How often do we allow our doubts, our fears, our failures to get the best of us so that we fling ourselves into the hand of Satan? Yet we are always able to return, through the power of the Spirit, to the promise of Christ. There is forgiveness and life in His name if only we do not resist the Spirit. He brings us to the cross to confess our sin, our doubts, our fears, our failures, and there we are crucified with them.

But, in Christ we have the promise of the empty tomb. There is new life on the other side of the cross. When we allow the Spirit to unite us with Christ in His death by denying ourselves, then we are brought through that crucifixion to eternal life. May we always turn when we find ourselves through words or actions denying Christ that we may die to self and rise in Him. In doing so, we find our life both now and forever.

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

#### **VERSE: MATTHEW 16:25**

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**PSALM 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*Lord Jesus, abide with us in these latter evil days. Grant to Your Church true shepherds and faithful pastors who preach Your Word in its purity, and who lead us in the way of truth. Preserve our souls from being deluded by worldly wisdom and the teaching of men who walk after their own thoughts, and keep us steadfast in Your Word, to our end **Amen.***

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	116, 117	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	120, 121	124, 125	129, 130, 131
Evening	118	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	122, 123	126, 127, 128	132, 133

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Matt. 16:21-28	
Monday	The Sin Offering—Leviticus (4:1-2) 5:1-10 (11-13)	1 Peter 3:8-22
Tuesday	The Restitution Offering—Leviticus 5:(14-16) 17—6:7	1 Peter 4:1-11
Wednesday	The Ministry of the Priests Begins—Leviticus 9:1-16, 22-24	1 Peter 4:12-19
Thursday	The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7	1 Peter 5:1-14
Friday	The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34	1 Peter 1:1-15
Saturday	Ezek. 33:7-9	Romans 13:1-10

**The Catechism: The Ten Commandments — The Fifth and Sixth Commandments**

<p><i>What is the Fifth Commandment?</i>  <b>You shall not murder</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>            We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need.</p>	First Grade+
<p><i>What is the Sixth Commandment?</i>  <b>You shall not commit adultery.</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>            We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.</p>	Second Grade+

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** Shawn 7 Molly Herrmann, Jeron , Jayson; Chris Hildebrandt; Arlie & Ramona Hildebrandt; Leroy Hildebrandt; Norman Hildebrandt

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Bert Tegtmeier; Kirk Lauritsen; Levi Roth

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Pat & Janine Wagner

**Members of the Congregation:** Alan Barraza; Xander Daniel

**Friends of our Congregation:** Kristena; Charlene

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett*

*Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar*

**Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.**

*Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant*

*Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

**Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison**

**Our Community:** *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

**Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly**

**Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM**

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

**“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”**

**851**

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| <p>1 Lord of glory, You have bought us<br/>With Your lifeblood as the price,<br/>Never grudging for the lost ones<br/>That tremendous sacrifice;<br/>And with that have freely given<br/>Blessings countless as the sand<br/>To the unthankful and the evil<br/>With Your own unsparing hand.</p> <p>2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You<br/>Gladly, freely of Your own.<br/>With the sunshine of Your goodness<br/>Melt our thankless hearts of stone<br/>Till our cold and selfish natures,<br/>Warmed by You, at length believe<br/>That more happy and more blessed<br/>'Tis to give than to receive.</p> | <p>3 Wondrous honor You have given<br/>To our humblest charity<br/>In Your own mysterious sentence,<br/>“You have done it all to Me.”<br/>Can it be, O gracious Master,<br/>That You deign for alms to sue,<br/>Saying by Your poor and needy,<br/>“Give as I have giv’n to you”?</p> <p>4 Lord of glory, You have bought us<br/>With Your lifeblood as the price,<br/>Never grudging for the lost ones<br/>That tremendous sacrifice.<br/>Give us faith to trust You boldly,<br/>Hope, to stay our souls on You;<br/>But, oh, best of all Your graces,<br/>With Your love our love renew.</p> |
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**Looking Forward to “The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost”**

**September 10, 2023**

**Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9 | Romans 13:1-10 | Matthew 18:1-20**

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, “you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” but whoever is humbled like a little child will be “the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3-4). Though in our sin we deserve to be “drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned (“buried”) with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7-9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which “is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we “pay to all what is owed to them” (Rom. 13:7) and we “owe no one anything, except to love each other” (Rom. 13:8).

