



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“The weapons of our warfare are spiritual. These two agents uphold Christendom on Earth: the Word of God and the prayer of Christians. For us the Word of God and the Office of the Holy Ministry sustain the Christian Church, so, too, does the prayer of every Christian.” — M. Luther

Dear Blessed Sacrament family,

5 Nov. 2020

You have likely heard Psalm 146:3 cited several times this week: “Put not your trust in princes.” It’s worth hearing again, but this time considering it more fully.

Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry. (146:3-7)

The first thing to note is that the Lord our God decrees this as a command. Do *not* put your trust in those who govern. There are a few reasons for this and the Lord gives them to us in order of priority. Above all, He says those who govern cannot save. There is no salvation in governors, except for one — King Jesus. The person who understands that is “blessed” and has true hope because He, Jesus, “keeps faith forever.” That’s the second reason — the promise-making Lord is the promise-keeping Savior... always. No political can claim that. Third, He keeps His word of promise to us *forever*, not merely through one election cycle or two.

After a bizarre election cycle, one that puts the future of the country into question, Psalm 146 puts things into comforting perspective. The plans of our governors “perish,” but *verbum Domini manet in aeternum* — the Word of the Lord endures forever. So when we gather for Mass this Sunday, let there be no handwringing among us, even as we encourage the rule of law with free and fair elections. Instead, let us rejoice that we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God and, secondarily, Americans. Once we have that priority straight, then we can rightly and fearlessly render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that a God’s.

Sunday Mass. Proper 27. Color green. Sermon: “The Rapture Myth.” Hymns: Processional: **953**; Hymn of Praise: **This is the Feast**; Hymn of the Day: **791**; Recessional: **665**. Psalm **70** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Cantic: **Thank the Lord**.

Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18–24	Psalm 70	1 Thess. 4:13–18	Matt. 25:1–13
Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7–16	Psalm 90:1–12	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:14–30

Hymns for 15 Nov. Proper 28. Processional: **534**; Hymn of Praise: **Gloria In Exclesis**; Hymn of the Day: **761**; Recessional: **922**. Psalm **90** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**.

First Holy Communion catechumens gather 0830-0930 Saturday at the Sousa home.

Catechesis. Every Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with the 8th lesson in “Loving the Liturgy.”

Prayers for the saints in our midst. Sandi, a friend of the Drake family; Helena, with thanksgiving for recovery; Samantha’s upcoming surgery; Ken Adams; the persecuted church in Pakistan; our First Holy Communion catechumens.

Be sure to email or text me the names of those remembered before the Lord in the tolling of the bells.

Resources. An article on the terms “passing” and “passed away” redirects our speaking about death to biblical terminology. <https://www.1517.org/articles/jesus-did-not-pass-away-on-preaching-death-and-dying>. Concerning the “Rapture,” see the short Youtube video from reliable Lutheran theologians, Rev. Dr. Jordan B. Cooper, “Five Problems with the Rapture” and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4mqj0Mcms> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU5LMJ-L-Mo>.

Upcoming Events. (1) Saint Martin’s Day Lantern Event on 11 Nov. for about an hour, when the children will be making lanterns for a procession, and a house blessing to follow.

Gratefully yours,
Pastor John