

# Pentecost #25

## World Hunger Sunday

11-14-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

### **Celebrate (Introduction)**

“November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ’s coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end of time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Opening Hymn: [“Jesus Call Us”](#)**

#### **Psalm: Psalm 16**

“Preserve me, O God, for in thee I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>I say to the Lord, “Thou art my Lord;

I have no good apart from thee.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup>As for the saints in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;<sup>[b]</sup>  
their libations of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
thou holdest my lot.

<sup>6</sup>The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
yea, I have a goodly heritage.

<sup>7</sup>I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

<sup>8</sup>I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also dwells secure.

<sup>10</sup>For thou dost not give me up to Sheol,  
or let thy godly one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup>Thou dost show me the path of life;  
in thy presence there is fulness of joy,  
in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.”

Hymn of Praise: [“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”](#)

### **Prayer of the Day**

“Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation from birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** [Daniel 12:1-3](#)

**2nd Reading:** [Hebrews 10:11-25](#)

**The Gospel:** [Mark 13:1-8](#)

**Hymn of the Day:** [“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”](#)

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

In preparing for today’s World Hunger presentation, I became overwhelmed by the research. Although over the past few years I have been aware of the changes which have occurred in our nation and throughout the world, researching the current world hunger status brought to light the tragic meaning of disparity especially in regards to disparity among nations and peoples’ economic circumstances. It brought to mind the parable of Jesus about Lazarus, the poor diseased beggar who stationed himself outside of the gate of the very rich man’s home and feeding himself off the rich man’s table scraps. This is a parable which clearly illustrated the disparity between the rich and the poor, the haves and have not’s, or those with plenty and those who go hungry.

For many years the results of this disparity- poverty and hunger - was beginning to show signs of improving. For instance, between 2000 and 2015 there were 216 million fewer people stricken by hunger even though the population increase by 1.9 billion. Sadly this began to change thereafter until 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic struck throughout the world bringing a drastic change. The initial statistics for 2020 indicate that those who are going hungry has risen by 161 million people and stands now at an early estimated 811 million. The impact of the pandemic is still being determined.

The word hunger can be relative to one’s circumstances. For our purposes the best definition is from the UN’S Hunger Report. “...hunger is the term used to define periods when populations are experiencing severe food insecurity—meaning that they go for entire days without eating due to lack of money, lack of access to food, or other resources.” The root causes for poverty and hunger can be political conflict, climate change, natural disasters, and social rejection,

along with the spreading pandemic. In all cases the end result is poverty and millions of men women, and children are paying the price through the lack of food, clean water, unhealthy living conditions, disease, and homelessness.

The extreme poverty regions of the world are in Asia, Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. The breakdown is as follows; Asia contain about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the world's hungry-418 million; Africa and the Sub-Saharan Region  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of the world's hungry – 282 million; Latin America and the Caribbean have 60 million going hungry. We can see the increasing problem which dramatic climate changes are causing throughout these regions. The extremes in weather are causing not only drought but natural disasters leading to the interruption of food production as well as changing societal norms. In many areas this is causing not only political instability and conflict but migration and increased poverty and questionable futures. We are vividly aware of the results of this along our southern borders and throughout our society with immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. It is also clearly evident in Haiti where the extreme weather continues to devastate that already poor Island.

No matter if we choose to turn a blind eye to the problem of poverty and hunger the results of their existence remain a reality. They are there if we choose to see them. Extreme poverty encompasses 736 million human beings because they can only earn on the average of \$1.90 per day. The result is that 6.6 million primary school children attend school every morning hungry. Can you imagine their capacity to learn under those circumstances? Through no fault of their own they enter life being disadvantage with little hope for their future in this highly competitive age. Without strong intervention they will only know the down side of disparity. Even worse, for being born into such circumstances in life they may never reach the age of being able to go to school. Recent statistics show that this is currently the case for more than 3 million children who die from Poverty and hunger related causes. This need not be since the world produces enough food to feed everybody. Just think about the fact that we waste one trillion dollars worth of food every year. This is enough to feed 2 billion people or more than double the number of undernourished people in the world.

The hunger statistics for the United States for 2020 also reflected a dramatic increase in families with food insecurity. It is estimated that 38 million Americans or 11.8% of the population struggled with food to eat on a regular basis due to lack of money – a 9% increase over 2019. This is food insecurity. Those with a very low food security where families skipped meals on a regular basis represent 3.9% of households or one in every 25. With the most up-to-date statistic this change some during this year. With the Child Tax Credit legislation there was a dramatic improvement especially among children, this brought the hunger rate to its lowest rate since the beginning of the pandemic, 7.8%. It affected 3.3 million families. Although this may have been a step in the right direction, hunger still exists among millions of people in our nation.

Contrary to what may be the perception, the highest poverty rate 11.6% is in rural areas vs 10.4% in metropolitan areas. It is the highest in the South followed by the Midwest. Although the U.S. is lower in the percentage of hungry families in relation to many nations, we are one of

the richest nations in the world and nobody should go hungry nor should its children suffer the results of malnutrition.

This past year has been no exception to sudden and on-going natural disasters throughout the world and in the U.S. Floods have ravaged Europe and Asia while drought has continued to consume several regions of Africa and Latin America. Haiti was again devastated by an earthquake as well as another catastrophic tropical storm. Across the U.S. from drought in California and Western wildfires to Monstrous storms and tornados and hurricanes in other sections of the country, people have felt the brunt of nature's fury. Many lost their homes, businesses, and even towns in addition to the loss of life. In all cases it has meant that hundreds of thousands of people across the nation and the world suddenly were found without the basic necessities of life and in dire need of help.

With the Hungry in need and those caught up in nature's fury, the world has enough food production and economic resources to cover all needs. But the question has been that the will of those who are able to give the most help do not have the will to do so. During the pandemic, while others struggled to get by, the World's billionaires increase their wealth by 54% or \$4 trillion. The net worth of the U.S. billionaires almost doubled during that same time. The economic disparity gets greater and greater while those who go hungry is now increasing each year. It remind me of Jesus' parable of the rich man who kept building more and bigger barns to store his possessions and found that in the long term it was for naught.

In the meantime the need is there and people are suffering. Although programs like the ELCA World Hunger Appeal may only reach a relatively small number of those suffering across the world and in our own nation, they are saving lives and giving many people hope who otherwise have little or no hope. Each year more people are realizing their dreams. The World Hunger Appeal through the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief is on the scene and are not only helping to meet the immediate needs of those suffering but also giving the foundation for self-supporting and life sustaining programs. Through our contributions the World Hunger Appeal reaches into 34 states and 63 countries with health clinic, food pantries, soup kitchens clean water sanitation projects, economic development, agricultural, and educational programs as well as emergency relief assistance. It is also a part of the very successful Good Gifts Program which gives farm animals as well as life sustaining items through designated contributions.

We may rightfully want to point the finger at those who have great wealth and not helping to answer the needs of those who are suffering greatly throughout the world, but that does not give us any reason not to do what we can to help. Each contribution we make will be celebrated with an angel placed on the Angel Tree every Sunday until the end of the year. In the Letter to the Hebrews the writer states, "And let us consider to provoke one another to love and good deeds...." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did it not to me." Just remember this that we may be small in number but we are mighty in our deeds when we answer the call to "...love your neighbor as yourself."

**Anthem:** ["To Believe" Jackie Evancho](#)

**Offering\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

### **The Prayer**

Ever loving God, in the midst of your creation, which gives us more than enough to live upon, there are too many people who suffer from poverty and hunger. May we not only recognize the needs of so many who are suffering but find ways in which to give them a life which finds well-being and hope for the future. Open our hearts to them for their need be no suffering from the necessities of life for anybody.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, Kraig Greff, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack,  
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you;  
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters  
Live on knowing God's love,  
The joy of living this life of love,  
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.  
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

**Closing Hymn:** ["Take My Like, That I May Be"](#)

### **Announcements**

All services are being held indoors in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing is required. Congratulations to Colin Shea upon receiving his PHD. He is now Dr. Shea.  
Next Sunday is Appreciation Sunday followed the Annual Congregational Meeting  
Advent begins Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of the Advent Wreath.

\*Offering to be sent to

Robert Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)