

UNLESS a grain of wheat falls into
the earth and dies

it remains alone

BUT

if it dies

it bears much fruit

John 12:24

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OUR WORSHIP

Finding Through Losing

SERVICE THEME Jesus Christ says, "Here's what it means to follow Me. You have to *hate* your life to find it. You have to *lose* your life to discover it."

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

RESPONSIVE READING Luke 9:23-25

Pastor: Jesus said to His disciples,

People: "**The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and the teachers of the Law, and be killed and on the third day be raised.**"

Pastor: And He said,

People: "**If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**"

Pastor: In addition, Jesus said,

People: "**Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**"

Pastor: He continued:

People: "**For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits his very self, that is, his LIFE.**"

ALL: We have come here today to see Jesus and to experience the LIFE that only His death and resurrection can give us. We have been given this LIFE when we were Baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And we continue to experience this LIFE and to be fruitful through faith in Him alone. AMEN!

OPENING HYMN *LSB 555, vv. 1, 7, & 10* "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

**Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.**

**Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!" No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name, My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.**

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *LSB 555, vv. 3, 8-9*

Pastor: Father, it is our nature to think that Your blessing and Your gift of LIFE come to us because we do our best to obey Your will and to live according to Your Law.

People: We are deeply sorry; our hearts daily and continually struggle with self-righteousness and self-justification. Please forgive us and renew us in the peace and power of Your forgiveness.

Pastor: We have been forgiven, that is, we have been justified by faith alone in Christ alone; and, being justified we experience the energy and the excitement of living our LIFE in a new and enthralling way.

**It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright To bring inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.**

**The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; The Law no peace can ever give.
No comfort and no blessing.**

**Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Father, send Your Holy Spirit every day, indeed, every hour, to help us to die to our thinking that we can save ourselves, that is, that we can be our own redeemer, escaping the dark prison of a meaningless and insignificant life and entering into the freedom of love and LIFE, through our own efforts. And, may that same Spirit take us to the cross where we daily die to ourselves and come alive to the possibility of a new and exciting LIFE.

**People: We humbly ask in Jesus' precious name, the same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
AMEN!**

+ Readings from God's word +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Leviticus 18:4-5

[The LORD said to Moses] ⁴“You must obey My laws and be careful to follow My decrees. I am the LORD your God. ⁵Keep My decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.”

EPISTLE READING Galatians 3:11-12

¹¹Clearly no one who relies on the Law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” ¹²The Law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”

Pastor: These Readings are from God's holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING John 12:20-29

Pastor: The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John the evangelist, the disciple whom Jesus loved, the twelfth chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "The Last Place You Look"

MESSAGE HYMN *LSB 527* "O Savior, Precious Savior"

**O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.**

**O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.**

**In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow'r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.**

**O grant the consummation Of this our song above
In endless adoration And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!**

MESSAGE "Lost and Found"

Introduction

In our Gospel Reading, Jesus tells us what it means to follow Him.

Jesus

"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies . . ."

"From the view of the moment . . . from the vantage of eternity. . ."

Us

"Whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal LIFE."

"No one is justified before God by the Law."

Us in More Detail

"Let him deny himself take up his cross daily and follow Me."

"When Jesus says, 'Repent!' He wills that our whole life be repentance."

+ Our Response to God's Word +

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 *LSB 704* Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.**

**Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your word
Let what You will be my desire;
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light Eternal, through Your grace.**

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen!**

SENDING PRAYER

Pastor: Father, send Your Holy Spirit to give us renewed faith in Christ Jesus, the One and only Source of our justification. And, empower us today and every day to live out our justification, that is, humbly and daily admitting our natural inclination to live turned in on ourselves and focused on using people and things to justify ourselves, and, then, looking to Jesus alone for His justification of us. We ask in Your Son's precious name, the Same who is our Righteousness and our Life, and who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord is blessing you and keeping you;
The Lord is making His face to shine on you
and He is being gracious to you;
The Lord is smiling the biggest smile possible when He thinks of you
and He is giving you peace.

People: Amen!

SENDING HYMN “The Prayer of St. Francis”

**Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord.
And where there’s doubt, true faith in You.**

**Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light.
And where there’s sadness ever joy.**

**Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand.
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive.
And in dying that we’re born to eternal life.**

NEXT SUNDAY

THEME: The Attractive Power of the Cross

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “Iodine”

MESSAGE: “Jesus is Lifted Up!”