

Old Testament Reading: Amos 6:1-7

- ¹ "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the
mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
² Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your
territory,
³ O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?
⁴ "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their
couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the
harp
and like David invent for themselves
instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest
oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of
Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first of
those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch
themselves out shall pass away."

Epistle: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires
to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.
²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach,
the husband of one wife, sober-minded,
self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to
teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle,
not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He
must manage his own household well, with all
dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if
someone does not know how to manage his
own household, how will he care for God's
church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or
he may become puffed up with conceit and
fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷More-
over, he must be well thought of by outsiders,

so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a
snare of the devil.

⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not
double-tongued, not addicted to much wine,
not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must
hold the mystery of the faith with a clear con-
science. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then
let them serve as deacons if they prove them-
selves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be
dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded,
faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the
husband of one wife, managing their children
and their own households well. ¹³For those
who serve well as deacons gain a good standing
for themselves and also great confidence in the
faith that is in Christ Jesus.

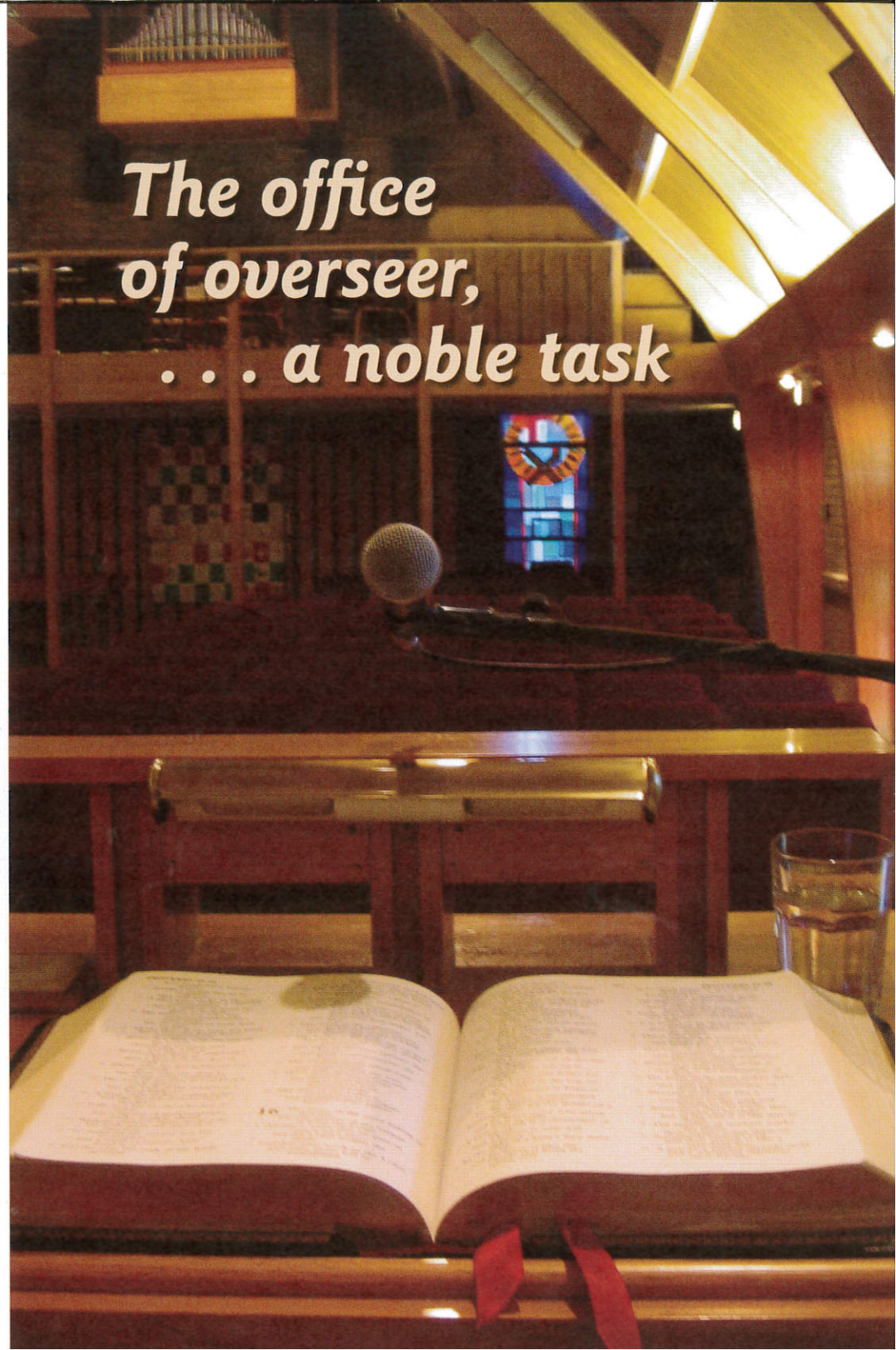
Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who
was clothed in purple and fine linen and who
feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his
gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, cov-
ered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with
what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover,
even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The
poor man died and was carried by the angels
to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and
was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he
lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and
Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, 'Father
Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus
to dip the end of his finger in water and cool
my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'
²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you
in your lifetime received your good things, and
Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he
is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And
besides all this, between us and you a great
chasm has been fixed, in order that those who
would pass from here to you may not be able,
and none may cross from there to us.' ²⁷And he
said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my
father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so
that he may warn them, lest they also come
into this place of torment.' ²⁹But Abraham said,
'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them
hear them.' ³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham,
but if someone goes to them from the dead,
they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do
not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will
they be convinced if someone should rise from
the dead.'"

About the Cover: Your pastor has been called to the noble task of
preaching God's Word to you and administering His Sacraments. It is
by far the most important thing that he is called to do. Therefore, it is
right that we should always seek to support and pray for our pastors in
this crucial work so that each of the Lord's congregations is continually
edified by the Gospel proclamation of Jesus Christ and Him crucified for
the forgiveness of sins.



The office of overseer, ... a noble task



St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

September 25, 2022 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Office of Matins (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 219)

Hymn of Invocation 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 219)

***Venite* (p. 220)**

Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴**When his breath departs he returns to the earth;**

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth,**

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Office Hymn 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 221)

Sermon

***Te Deum* (p. 223)**

Prayer for Presenting the Offering

Kyrie (p. 227)

Collect of the Day

P O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

The prayer concludes:

P ...one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction (p. 228)

Closing Hymn 707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Silent Prayer

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Organist: Gail Tutt

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Amos 6:1-7
Epistle: 1 Timothy 3:1-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

WE PRAY: Heavenly Father, restrain us from believing that the voices of the dead or the messages of angels or anything other than Your Word and sacraments, with the power of the Holy Spirit in them, will bring us to, or keep us in, Your holy and saving faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

Portal of Prayers are available for October—December. Pick one up.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—10 Adult Bible Class—13 Worship—57

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday	\$1,925.00
Weekly 2022 Budget income needed	\$4,084.71
Collection for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	\$ 780.00

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
	11:30 pm	Catechism class
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Adult Instruction class
Wednesday	7:00 pm	SS. teachers' meeting
Thursday	9:00 am	Evan/Stewardship meeting
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Catechism class

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

AMOS 6:1a – "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion." The Book of Amos is a warning to God's people who have been given great material wealth. As Jesus Himself mentions, material blessings can turn into temptations – chiefly the temptation to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and independent. What does Amos suggest as a way to combat this temptation? First, faith in the Lord and dependence upon Him! And if our faith is right, we will want to follow the rest of Amos' instructions – to bless the poor with our alms and to make sure the Lord's House is properly cared for. In other words, we are called to align our actions with God's priorities and put others ahead of ourselves.

ATTENDANCE PADS are at the end of each pew. Each family (members and guests) should sign using only **ONE** box per household, naming all family members present in the one box. **EVERYONE** needs to indicate their intention to receive Holy Communion on a Communion Sunday. Return pad to the right end of your pew. Thanks for your help with this.

ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2022 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. Please sign up for a Sunday.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:

MISSION—Thank God for the Church. Pray that the Church remain faithful to the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments according to God's will.

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Langdon—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Dennis and Cathy and ask Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Betty Firch	Carolyn Werner
Paula Chapa	Arlyn Helke	Carolyn Wildermuth
Jim Dahl	Lynne Johnson	Marilyn Woods
Lois Esterlein	Drew Schillinger	

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St. John Laborer for Christ)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Zachary/Tiffany Gardner (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

““Every time we speak up for the sanctity of life, whether for the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, or the marginalized, we speak for hope. Every time we drop some coins or a check into a baby bottle, we stand for hope and healing and life. Every time we personally care for someone or hug someone or talk to someone who is in a crisis pregnancy or is disabled or is elderly or is marginalized, we show them Christ. We show them the common ground that transcends all our differences. We show them that all our lives matter because God made us. He chose each of us to be His child, and He will never leave us or forsake us. Let us never give up on baby bottle drives and hugs and smiles. The world needs us!” *Barbara A. Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life regional director of Texas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

THE G.R.I.T. RUN is back on October 1 at Camp CILCA. Run trails, cross creeks, see great sights, and earn your place with the brave souls who meet this challenge each year. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children 17 and under. Register at www.cilca.org/grit-run.

ALL LADIES INVITED—Trinity Lutheran Church, Coal Valley, cordially invites all Rock Island zone ladies to a tea party brunch in their fellowship hall,

Saturday, October 22 @ 10:00 am. Please RSVP to Bonnie Engstrom by October 9th at 309-799-5278.

Do you have a favorite teacup with a story your willing to share? Bring it along. Please wear a hat and gloves. Looking forward to a day of fellowship and fond memories. Your friends at Trinity Lutheran Church.

2022-23 Bowling Season—The Illinois/Iowa Quad Cities LCMS Lutheran Adult Mixed Bowling League season is now underway. We continue to encourage church members to call our League Secretary, Jim Pearson at (563) 293 6456 or email him at LMLEAGUE@YAHOO.COM for more information. We look forward to having more people join us for the season of fun and fellowship.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

Text: Luke 16:19-31 (Gospel)

Other texts: Amos 6:1-7 (Old Testament Reading); 1 Timothy 3:1-13 (Epistle)

“The Faith of Lazarus”

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We heard our Lord speak *the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus*. When considering what is said of heaven and hell in it, we should remember two things. First, Jesus speaks *a parable*, not a doctrinal lecture, so we must be careful to not push every minute detail. Yet, Jesus is the eternal Word and the Truth,¹ therefore we must also recognize that He would not describe the age to come in any way that is either misleading or contrary to fact. So what can we say?

The first thing to keep in mind is that this parable deals with what we call “the intermediate state of the soul,” that is, the state of the soul between physical death and the resurrection of the body. This becomes clear when one recognizes that the rich man wants Lazarus *sent back to his brothers* so that they would not enter this place of torment, something that would be impossible if the Final Judgment and the resurrection had already occurred.

Therefore, death is the death of the body, but the center of one’s person, variously called the soul, spirit, mind, ego, personality, etc. consciously lives on, as feeling, knowing, reasoning, remembering and such continue. Thus, far from some sort of soul sleep, a person immediately after death begins experiencing either the joys of paradise, as did Lazarus, or the agonies of damnation, as was the case of the rich man. Joys or agonies which will then be increased as the soul and body are reunited at the resurrection on the Last Day, as the body will also experience the eternal bliss of glory in the new creation, or the everlasting suffering in the lake of fire.

In addition, we learn that God has put a great (Greek: *mega*) chasm between paradise and hell, so that there is no crossing from one to the other. That means there is neither the possibility of one in heaven somehow losing their salvation, a great comfort for sure, nor that someone in hell gets a second chance to get out, a terrifying warning indeed. Thus it is written, “It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”² This life determines the next.

Finally, we learn that not only is the final destination fixed, permanent, it is so because God’s judgment is righteous, being right and, true. Father Abraham took no pleasure in the rich man’s torment, he even calls him “Child,” thus acknowledging him as a blood descendent (which proves that Jews do not automatically go to heaven). Yet, while there is no pleasure, neither is there any sympathy, “Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.”³ And so Abraham, a great saint and the father of all believers,⁴ shows how those in heaven reflect their God and Savior, neither delighting in the suffering of the damned, just as God does not desire the death of the wicked,⁵ yet accepting that all who are condemned deserve it, have brought it on themselves, thereby approving God’s judgment and experiencing no loss of joy in glory over those who are absent as there is full joy in the presence of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As we hear about the agonies of the rich man in hell, so horrific that there is not even the slightest, tiniest hope of relief (reflected by not even a fingertip dipped in water), no comfort from the presence of earthly loved ones being there with us (reflected in how the rich man wanted his brothers *not* to join him), no assistance, no matter how miniscule, to ever be received and no chance of escape (all reflected by the great chasm), we do well to keep in mind *why* this is revealed. For it is not there to satisfy our morbid curiosity. On the contrary, it is written so that hearing it we would flee from the wrath to come,⁶ staying spiritually awake, diligently praying that we would escape these things and be able to stand before the Son of Man when He comes in judgment.⁷ Yes, the Lord Jesus and His Scripture reveal hell to us so that we would learn how to *not* get there, and then put into practice that which we have learned.

So what does our dear Savior say to us through this parable about how *not* to get there? First of all, it must be pointed out that being rich, of itself, was not what condemned the rich man any more than being poor was what saved Lazarus. After all, Abraham himself was quite rich and is quite obviously in heaven as this parable and numerous other places in Scripture reveal. So also, many a poor person proves poverty to be no virtue by their spiritual despair and turning to criminality. Thus it is written in the book of Proverbs, “Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.”⁸

Yet, while riches themselves are not sinful, having them does not prove God’s favor any more than poverty proves His displeasure. Truly it is how we use the wealth that God has blessed us with; that is His test for us. For it is no accident that this parable follows that of the Dishonest Manage which heard last week. For after our Lord described how to use one’s wealth in that parable it is recorded that “The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed [Jesus].”⁹ So with this parable, Jesus drives home that their love of money and wealth was idolatrous and would lead to an unpleasant end indeed.

If one has wealth it is to be used to help those in need, those who will then welcome us into the eternal dwellings as we heard last week.¹⁰ But not the rich man. He was too busy seeking his own comfort, feasting every day, of itself a clear abuse of the wealth given to him, made all the worse when he would not spare anything for the poor, sickly Lazarus who had been placed at his door in order to receive alms from the one who had so much. The rich man’s love was limited to himself and to those who brought him earthly joy, and so was truly no love at all. Of course, *merely* feeding the poor and such other acts of charity are not enough. After all, there are some with wealth who are what we call philanthropists, giving large amounts to help people in various ways, yet who will still be condemned. But make no mistake, *a believer will* have a loving heart filled with mercy towards those in need. Let us pray to grow in such charity to the needy!

But Lazarus had no wealth with which to help others, but was dependent upon others. Again, this shows that poverty and needing help from others is not a sin. But here’s the question. “Will the poor, sick, suffering person trust in the Lord in the midst of it all, seeking help for now yet always keeping their focus on and their hope in the age to come? Or will they despair of God’s help?” Lazarus seemingly had every reason to give up on God, to despair of His love and help. Yet, he didn’t. He never gave up on the Lord, but trusted in Him and His promises. “Blessed are

you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”¹¹

Yes, Lazarus trusted in these promises for he had heard the Word of the Lord and knew that God and His Word cannot lie. He waited on the Lord, enduring the great shame and suffering he experienced with faith, patience, perseverance, and hope. And God proved that his name, *Lazarus*, was appropriate, for it means “one whom God helps.” For God helped him, sending His angels to bring Lazarus home to Him, to be comforted forever.

Dear Christians, Lazarus was not a pitiable fool. Yes, the rich man should have had pity on him in his earthly suffering, but he was wise to keep trusting in the Lord for deliverance. And so the rich man who feasted greatly and would not share a crumb will never get even a drop of water again, while Lazarus who did not receive a crumb now feasts at the heavenly banquet. But how did Lazarus have such a faith to endure so much unto the end? Father Abraham tells us, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.”¹² That is, *we have the Word of God*. Nothing more, not even the greatest miracles will help, as was proven when another man by the name of Lazarus was raised from the dead, which simply made him a target for assassination. Or when Christ Jesus rose from the dead, an event that is well attested, yet the evidence is just ignored.

We don’t need miracles, at least beyond that of the miracle of conversion. The Holy Spirit has enlightened us through the Word, and continues to warn and guide us by that same Word. It shows us hell, and that it is what we deserve because of our sins. But the Word also shows us heaven, promising that all who repent and trust in Christ Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection, have their sins forgiven and will be with Him in heaven, where we shall be fully comforted. So heed the Word and you will be given the faith of Lazarus, which endures suffering, loves your neighbor in acts of mercy, receives your daily bread with thanksgiving, and will finally obtain the comfort of being in God’s glorious presence in the world to come, where you will join with all the faithful in the indescribable blessings of the new creation.

God grant us all the divine wisdom of Lazarus’ enduring faith and hope of heaven. Amen!

¹ John 1:1-3, 14; 14:6.

² Hebrews 9:27. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

³ Luke 16:25.

⁴ Romans 4:11.

⁵ Ezekiel 18:23.

⁶ Cf. Luke 3:7.

⁷ Luke 21:36.

⁸ Proverbs 30:8-9.

⁹ Luke 16:14.

¹⁰ Luke 16:9.

¹¹ Luke 6:20-21.

¹² Luke 16:29.