

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:16–29

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸ For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹ Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest;

it will burst upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹ “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

²² But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

²³ “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ ²⁶ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

Epistle: Hebrews 11:17–31; 12:1–3

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said,

“Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. . . .

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

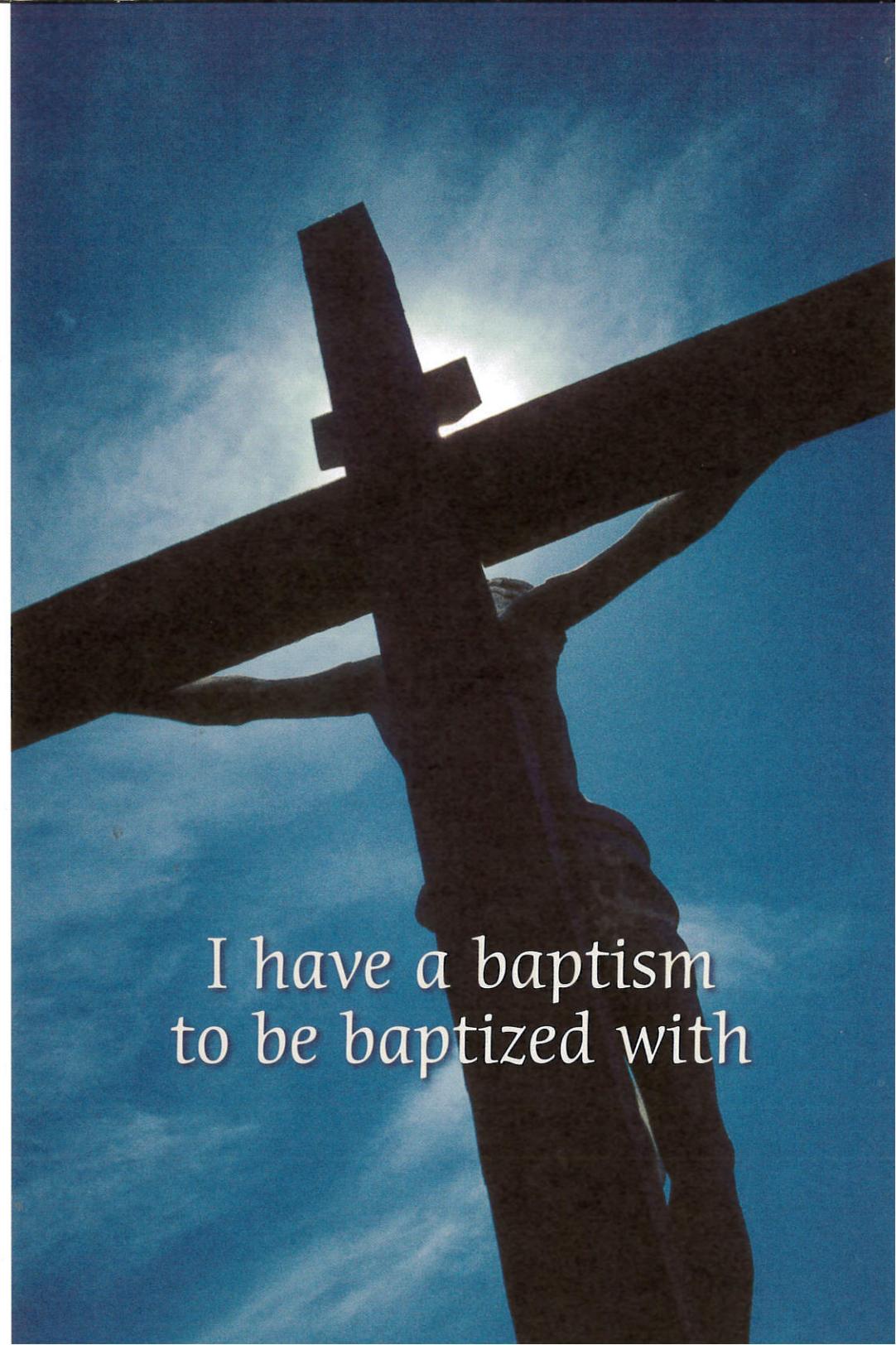
³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49–53

⁴⁹[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”



About the Cover: The baptism that Christ speaks of is that of the cross, where judgment against *us* rained down upon *Him*. Jesus took the judgment for all the world’s sin upon Himself—the whole baptism of fire in our place. By a different Baptism—ours into Christ’s death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and life eternal—Christ now showers blessing upon blessing on us.



I have a baptism
to be baptized with

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

August 14, 2022 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Hymn of Invocation 661 The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 260)

Psalm 119:81-88 *(in place of Old Testament Canticle)*

KAPH

⁸¹My soul longs for your salvation;
I hope in your word.

⁸²**My eyes long for your promise;**
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

⁸³For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

⁸⁴**How long must your servant endure?**
When will you judge those who persecute me?

⁸⁵The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;
they do not live according to your law.

⁸⁶**All your commandments are sure;**
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

⁸⁷They have almost made an end of me on earth,
but I have not forsaken your precepts.

⁸⁸**In your steadfast love give me life,**
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

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.

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 263)

Catechism (p. 264)

Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Holy Baptism - Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Sermon

Office Hymn 667 Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayer concludes:

P ... one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day (p. 265)

P Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

Morning Prayer (p. 266)

Blessing (p. 267)

Hymn to Depart 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

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: Carl Freeman
Organist: Corinne Luckinbill
Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-29
Epistle: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3
Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

WE PRAY: Heavenly Father, who made all nations of one blood to dwell together peaceably on earth, forgive us for allowing the division perpetrated by Satan, help us to bridge the Satanic division with Christlike love for every fellow human, and give us patience and persistence with all who have not accepted Christ, for Christ's sake, for their sake, and for ours; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the 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.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—8 Adult Bible Class—12 Worship—61

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$4,310.51
Weekly 2022 Budget income needed \$4,084.71

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Adult Instruction
Friday	6:00 pm	Family Fun Night
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Youth Group

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

LUKE 12:51 – "Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Jesus has come to divide us out of the world – to carve out a people for Himself, redeemed by His Blood and trusting His Word. The world hates this Word, but for us it is life and salvation. We seek to follow Jesus' Word in all things because we know Him who gave us the Word: we know He always seeks to bless us.

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 have been given to the praise of our Heavenly Father in celebration of the wedding anniversary of John/Liz Neumann and in memory of John Wildermuth. May John and Liz be granted many more years together. May John's faith in Christ continue to encourage all at this congregation.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is this Friday, August 19th 6-9 pm. This event will replace the usually Rally Day. We will gather at 6 pm for a cook-out and evening of games, fun, and fellowship. Bring picnic food and lawn chairs. Hope to see many there. **This is for the entire congregation of all ages.**

NEW YEAR BEGINS—The new Sunday school year will begin August 21. Children will move to the next grade. New students are encouraged to start the year with us. If you know of any child not in SS, encourage them to join us in learning of their Lord and Savior, Jesus. This education will last an eternity.

WHO WILL HELP? We are in need of people to serve on two different committees. First we need 3 people to serve on the nominating committee. You will

be asked to secure the names of congregational members willing to be on the ballot for the Church council for 2023.

The second need is for 2 additional people to serve on the Church Constitution Review Committee. Your job will be to review the current constitution and make recommended changes as necessary. Please contact Don Hock (309-945-6675) or Pastor Nerud if you are willing to help on either of these committees. Please let either know ASAP.

CID SCHOLARSHIP—The school season is upon us and our children and teachers will return to the classroom. Positive Christian education is a necessity and blessing to all. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. An offering plate will be available today and next Sunday. Envelopes are available for your gifts and place it in the offering plate found on the table under the office window. Let's help in the teaching of our children with strong Christian values.

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.

COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM ST JOHN'S—Parents of students who will be attending an institution of higher learning are asked to let Terri know what school your child is attending and all forms of contact (phone, email, mailing address). Your help is greatly appreciated.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

MISSION—Pray with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.

ST JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kolb—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 Mike and Francie 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:

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

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

“Why bother living today as a child of God, striving to follow the Lord's will in words and actions in spite of trials? Why bother showing love and forgiveness toward those who hurt you? Why share the news of a Savior when it seems to have little effect? Because we live in the light of Jesus' love. Our sins are paid for and gone. Jesus' victory is ours. He promises: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’ (John 8:12). In His light every difficulty, no matter how intimidating in our eyes, fades away. Problems become opportunities for His glory to shine all the more!” *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

WALK FOR LIFE—Pregnancy Resources annual fund raiser is set for Saturday, September 10th. Walkers may check in between 8:30—11:00 am at the East Shelter of Ben Butterworth Park. Walkers may walk any time between 9-11:30 am. If you wish to support this event but are unable to walk, you may send your donation to: Pregnancy Resources, 3825—16th St., Moline IL 61265.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY- St. John's in East Moline is looking for a Director of Youth and Family. This is a salaried position with an average of 16 hours per week. A detailed job description can be found in St. John's office. Applicants will need to fill out an application and supply a resume with 3 letters of recommendation. Call Cris Braddy at 309-235-7984 if you have any questions.

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2022

Text: Hebrews 11:17-12:3 (Epistle)

Other Texts: Jeremiah 23:16-29 (Old Testament Reading); Luke 12:49-53 (Gospel)

“The Great Cloud of Witnesses”

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is not uncommon to hear people refer to the religion of the Old Testament as *Judaism*, but that is inaccurate. First of all, the true religion began with the promise of a coming Savior to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden right after the Fall into sin, with many generations between Adam and Abraham who is the father of the Jewish people. This leads to a second fact that is necessary to point out: Abraham was the father of the *Israelites*. The term “Jew” came about over a thousand years *after* Abraham when the Kingdom of Israel broke into two, the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, which was named for the largest tribe in that location, the tribe of Judah. Thus one would speak of “Jews from Judah.”

Consequently, when referring to religion, while we certainly acknowledge that the true faith was preserved amongst the people of Judah, that is, *the Jews*, until the coming of the Savior, we equally acknowledge two other facts. First, the true faith was present for over three thousand years before the term Judaism would have been applied to it. Second, the true faith was also corrupted, especially in the intertestamental years, by such groups as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, and others. In fact, the religion that we call Judaism today came about with the fall of the temple to the Romans in 70 AD and, far more importantly, *the rejection of the Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah*. In simple terms, Judaism is the religion of the Pharisees and their theological descendants. Thus it is *not* the faith of the Old Testament, which was fulfilled in Christ Jesus, but is in fact a false religion of laws and regulations with some generic hope in God’s mercy, *even as it despises His true mercy which came in His Son, the promised Savior*.

It is within this reality that the letter to the Hebrews was penned. It was written first and foremost to primarily Jewish Christians who were beginning to suffer insult and persecution for their faith and so were being tempted to return to Judaism which, while not always liked, was a legal religion in the Roman Empire and so they would avoid persecution. But as I just indicated, returning to Judaism was not an option since that would be nothing less than a rejection of the true faith by practicing what had become a false religion when it rejected Jesus as the Christ. It would mean the loss of their salvation, losing eternal life in the heavenly Promised Land, which the earthly Promised Land prefigured.

So that these Jewish believers would not do such, the author first writes doctrinal truths. He declares the absolute supremacy of Christ Jesus, over Moses and even the holy angels, for Jesus is the true, eternal Son of God, how Jesus’ high priesthood is greater than that of Aaron, for He is after the order of Melchizedek, and how the temple sacrifices really had no power of their own, but were only of value by their pointing forward to Jesus’ once-for-all sacrifice for sin upon the cross. All of these proclaim how the Old Testament religion is centered in the Messiah who had come in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and, by such, they warn that to be unwilling to suffer for

the sake of the name of Jesus is a denial, a rejection, of Christ Jesus and God's promised salvation.

After giving the doctrinal basis why these Christians should not give up their faith in Jesus, the author then pens what we have read the last two Sundays, that list of those who came before them who have *by faith* accomplished great things and overcame challenges, tests, trials, suffering, even martyrdom in horrific ways. Not some generic faith as the world speaks of, "Just believe in 'God,'" "Just believe in someone or something," or maybe the worst of all, "Just believe in yourself." For all of these are false faiths and so cannot be the faith of these believers of old whom the author of Hebrews commends as examples. No. Their faith is the same faith of which these Jewish Christians had and were being tempted to give up: *faith in the Messiah*.

And that is why this list of believers is not only for those of Jewish descent, but is *for all Christians*, including you and me. Abel, Enoch, Abraham and the patriarchs, Sarah and the matriarchs, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Samson and the other judges, David, Samuel, the faithful kings, the holy prophets, the confessors and martyrs in the Old Testament and the time of the Maccabees,ⁱ all of these and more are *our* fathers and mothers, for we are united to one another in the one Church, the body of Christ, which is composed of all believes past, present, and yet to come. All those still fighting the battles of faith here on earth in the Church Militant and those who have overcome and entered their victorious rest in the Church Triumphant.

And so this great cloud of witnesses encourages each and every one of us. They do so by their continuing presence with us. For since they are alive with God in heaven, they surround us as part of that glorious group that we confess in the Divine Service, "angels, archangels, and *all the company of heaven*."ⁱⁱ So these eternally living saints *still speak to us*,ⁱⁱⁱ for their earthly lives and their examples, certainly the positives but also the negatives, have been recorded in the living Word of God. By hearing it we hear them. By seeing that their faithfulness to Christ and His Word in this life has received God's gift of salvation, they encourage us to remain faithful on our earthly pilgrimage to our heavenly fatherland where we shall join them in God's presence.

Certainly we too need the example of the saints of old, their encouragement to remain faithful. We consider Abraham who was called to leave his home and travel to another land on just a promise, and he did. Again, Abraham was called to sacrifice his son Isaac who was key to that promise, and yet was willing to do so by faith, that is, faith in God that He would keep His promise, even raising Isaac from the dead. So we are called to turn away from the joys and comforts of this life looking forward to our real home in heaven. We are called to not count this world, our house and family, as our true home, for we hope in God's promise of an eternal home. We are called to make sacrifices in our lives in order to remain faithful to the Lord, giving up benefits, promotions, or friendships, or whatever if we are called to go against the Lord and His Word. By faith Abraham did so. We must do so and by faith we can.

Consider Moses, who could have had all the joys of Egypt's royal court, but instead chose "rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."^{iv} Clearly the reward was not leading the people of Israel, which was quite often a joyless task because of the people's complaining and even rebellions. Clearly it was not entering

the earthly Promised Land, something that he never even did. No. He was looking forward to the heavenly land of God's people, something that he could never have received by choosing the path of living as an unbeliever in this world, following the delights of sin, for such are fleeting, as is this life as a whole. And this is true for us. By faith we live in the world, but will not be of it. By faith we see the joys of sin as fleeting, deceitful and eternally deadly, instead being willing to suffer for Christ, as one of His people, looking forward to God's reward.

Yes, like these ancient believers, and many faithful ones since then even unto this very day, we may well have to forgo wealth, comforts, reputation, relationships, yes, even health and life itself for the sake of entering glory. And by faith in Christ, like them, we *can* do such. How? Does faith, of itself, have some sort of superpower? Not at all. After all, faith simply is trust. Everyone has faith, that is, trusts in something. No. It is *the object* of faith, what is trusted, that is key. For if the object of faith is wrong, faith is then wrong, a trust in an idol of some sort. It may be very strong, very sincere, but it will fail, likely in this life, and certainly on the Last Day.

But if the object of faith is right, then faith is right. Then it is the true God who is trusted, the one whose promises are true for He cannot lie, who cannot break His covenant which is sealed with the blood of His Son shed upon the cross. So the ancients, though only seeing from afar by prophecies and the shadows of types and prefigurements, trusted that God was faithful to forgive their sins, to guide and protect, to give them blessings in this life and the next. How much more than should we trust in the Lord, we on whom the end of the ages come for the Christ has come. For Moses and others "endured as seeing him who is invisible."^v But the invisible God has become visible, becoming incarnate, flesh and blood in the person of Jesus Christ. We have the account of His life, His ministry, His suffering, His death, His resurrection and His ascension.

We know that our Lord Jesus endured suffering beyond all others, facing hell, despising the shame of the cross so that we, like the saints of old, have certain hope now and forever. Jesus is truly the faithful one. His faithfulness to God even unto death on the cross becomes the basis of our faith, for His death was for us, His resurrection our future.

The ancients prevailed by faith, that is, they trusted in God's faithfulness to them, His strength and deliverance. We have these promises too which are all the clearer in the finished work of Christ Jesus our Lord. Like them while on earth, we too are protected, much evil of body and soul kept at bay. Like them while on earth, we too are confident that every test, every trial, every bit of suffering is being used for our good, drawing us closer to Him. Like them while on earth, we too step forward every day, choosing faithfulness and righteousness, for our hope is heaven, the longing of our heart eternal life in the heavenly city.

By faith the saints of old triumphed and by faith we too shall triumph. For like them, our faith is in God's faithfulness and His Messiah who has come and won the victory, and who will come again to bring us into glory. So set your hearts and minds to imitate the saints of old, neither growing weary nor giving up! Like them keep the faith and live faithfully, choosing obedience over sin, the eternal over the temporary, the heavenly over the earthly. Do such in absolute confidence that, like all the faithful saints before you, by faith in Christ you too will join them in reaching the goal, joining and rejoicing with them in receiving God's gracious reward of life everlasting in the world without end. Amen!

ⁱ The time of the Maccabees refers to the events of the horrific Jewish oppression, both of their faith and their people (very interconnected under the old covenant), under the Greeks during the intertestamental time period. These events are recorded in the apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees. These are not inspired Scripture, but are of great historical value, especially 1 Maccabees.

ⁱⁱ These words conclude the Proper Preface in the Service of the Sacrament.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. Hebrews 11:4.

^{iv} Hebrews 11:25-26. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

^v Hebrews 11:27.