

A woman with long hair, wearing a dark jacket and jeans, is sitting on a rock on a hillside. She is looking out over a vast valley with rolling mountains in the distance under a clear blue sky. The scene is framed by a double blue border.

# Vertical Living in a Horizontal World

## Reposition the Distractions

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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# TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Vertical Living in a Horizontal World: Reposition the Distractions

October 13, 2024

## AS WE GATHER

One of the most difficult challenges for any who desire to follow Jesus is winding one's way through all of the distractions which pop up in our horizontal plane of living. So much of what presents itself in front of us is only intended to bring satisfaction in the moment; or, if not satisfaction in the moment, then distraction from what really matters.

Satan is not all-knowing, but he does know how our sinful natures tend to jump after scintillating temptations. And, if he can keep our focus there, then we will have little time or energy or desire to be interested in the vertical plane of living.

Being able to identify the horizontal distractions and then reposition them for vertical living is one of the goals of all who follow Jesus. We look forward to allowing the Holy Spirit to work through God's Word today to enhance this ability.



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WORSHIP SERVANT RECOGNITION

During each of the upcoming months, we will be recognizing various servant leaders in the congregation, giving thanks for their faithful service. Today we give thanks for those who serve in worship: *Altar Guild, A/V Team, Scripture Readers, Ushers, Nursery Team, and Little Worship Leaders*. Your faithful use of your time and talents for this important work of the church is a blessing to this congregation and to those whom you serve. God bless you for your service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED

**All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

### SONG OF PRAISE

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

LSB 707

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do His will!**

**Order my footsteps by Thy Word and make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.**

**Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget Thy way, restore Thy wand'ring sheep.**

**Make me to walk in Thy commands—'tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.**

### † GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY †

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

(*ESV page 912*)

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD and live,

lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph,  
and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

<sup>7</sup> O you who turn justice to wormwood  
and cast down righteousness to the earth!

<sup>10</sup> They hate him who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and you exact taxes of grain from him,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not dwell in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup> For I know how many are your transgressions  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and turn aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time,  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup> Seek good, and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
as you have said.

<sup>15</sup> Hate evil, and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Mark 10:17-22

*(ESV page 1006)*

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup> And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” <sup>21</sup> And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S TALK**

**LITTLE WORSHIP** *(Children from 5-10 years old are welcome to follow the Little Worship leaders for a worship time all their own during the sermon.)*

## **SONG OF PREPARATION**

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with Your love,  
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.**

**Kneels at the feet of His friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who pours out Himself for them. (Refrain.)**

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race;  
Neighbors are nearby and far away. (Refrain.)**

**These are the ones we will serve; these are the ones we will love;  
All these are neighbors to us and You. (Refrain.)**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:  
This is the way we will live with You. (Refrain.)**

**SERMON** “Vertical Living in a Horizontal World: Reposition the Distractions” *Mark 10:17-22*  
*As followers of Jesus, we are called to manage our lives and our resources in God’s interests. When any of those things become distractions in our relationship with Him, it’s time to take a step back and put them in their place.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**All: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*In the Lord's Prayer we ask the Lord to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." In the Book of Colossians, the apostle Paul calls us to "bear with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgive each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive." During this month of October, we look inside of ourselves to see if we are allowing God's forgiveness to flow from us to others. Is there someone specific you need to forgive? Is there someone to whom you need to confess? Then take action on what you believe and do it. There is no time like the present to allow God's gifts of confession and forgiveness to free us and others from our sin.*

## SONG OF THANKS

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

**I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands. I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand  
Than to be the king of a vast domain and be held in sin's dread sway.  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.**

**He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom; He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;  
He's all that my hungering spirit needs. I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead  
Than to be the king of a vast domain and be held in sin's dread sway.  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.**

**OFFERING** *(You are invited to place your financial gifts to the Lord in the offering plates as they are passed through the pews. You can also give your one-time or recurring gifts to the Lord through the "Vanco Mobile" app for your phone or by clicking on the "Give" tab on our website.)*

## OFFERTORY

"God, How Can We Forgive"

**God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?  
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?  
When human loving fails and every hope is gone,  
Your love give strength beyond our own to face the dawn.**

**When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,  
How can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?  
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.  
A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.**

**Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,  
When you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.  
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.**

## STAFF APPRECIATION

**PRAYERS OF THE DAY** *(After each petition Pastor John will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation is invited to respond, "Hear our prayer.")*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as He has taught us:

**All: 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.**

## † CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

Through the Lord's Supper, our God graciously gives us the very body and blood of Jesus with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith in Him. To honor Jesus' presence among us, we ask that those communing have the following fellowship ties with us:

- Each one has been baptized in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- Each one has been instructed in and agrees with the Biblical teachings regarding the Lord's Supper as confessed by this congregation;
- Each one can answer "Yes" to the following questions in preparation to receive the Lord's Supper:
  - ◇ *Am I a sinner?*
  - ◇ *Am I sorry for my sin?*
  - ◇ *Do I believe Jesus died on a cross and rose from the dead to forgive me of my sin?*
  - ◇ *Do I believe Jesus is really present with the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper to deliver His forgiveness to me?*
  - ◇ Through the Lord's Supper, our God graciously gives us the very body and blood of *In response to God's forgiveness, do I intend to live a God-pleasing life?*

If you are unsure about whether or not it would be beneficial for you to participate, please feel free to contact Pastor John at your convenience during this coming week ([pastorjohn.christlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjohn.christlutheran@gmail.com) or 765-623-1137). *(Please note that gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available for those who would prefer them.)*

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

### SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the † Lord be with you always.

All: Amen. *(The congregation may be seated.)*

### DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS

#### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Jesus Is Lord of All”

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All my tomorrows, all my past; Jesus is Lord of all.  
I've quit my struggles, contentment at last! Jesus is Lord of all.

*Refrain:* King of kings, Lord of lords, Jesus is Lord of all;  
All my possessions and all my life, Jesus is Lord of all.

All of my conflicts, all my thoughts; Jesus is Lord of all.  
His love wins the battles I could not have fought; Jesus is Lord of all. *(Refrain.)*

All of my longings, all my dreams; Jesus is Lord of all.  
All of my failures His power redeems; Jesus is Lord of all. *(Refrain.)*

“I Give All to You”

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I give all my service to You, I give all my service to You;  
No matter the cost or what others do, I give all my service to You.

I give all my future to You, I give all my future to You;  
No matter the cost or what others do, I give all my future to You.

I give all my worship to You, I give all my worship to You;  
No matter the cost or what others do, I give all my worship to You.

“I Surrender All”

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All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.  
I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now.  
I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, may I know Thy pow'r divine.  
I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.  
I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

## PRAYER OF THANKS

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with His favor and † give you His peace. (*Numbers 6:24–26*)

**All: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

“Lift High the Cross”

***Refrain:*** Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (*Refrain.*)

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. (*Refrain.*)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on their brow the seal of Him who died. (*Refrain.*)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw the world to Thee. (*Refrain.*)

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. (*Refrain.*)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! (*Refrain.*)

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## POSTLUDE

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