

**Lessons for Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 13, 2024**

Psalm 90:12–17 ~ *Moses, prayer for God's compassion, that days of joy break even with the days of trouble.*

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15 ~ *The people of Amos' day used their power to deprive the poor rather than promote justice.*

Hebrews 3:12–19 ~ *Through confidence in Christ we encourage one another and share in His eternal rest.*

Mark 10:17–22 ~ *Eternal life is an inheritance given to family members; it is not deserved or bought.*

**GATHERING THE TEXTS:** It is a Matter of Inheritance.

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The man asked Jesus, as if inheritance depends on performance. Even in the Prophet Amos' day, riches were thought to be an indication of God's favor. The wealthy used that misconception as an excuse to oppress the poor. It also explains the disciples' amazement at Jesus' words: "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" Inheritance is a matter of sharing in Christ and encouraging one another to draw near to God with confidence in Him. By His grace God extends His household to us through Jesus Christ because "with God all things are possible."

**PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE:** Dear Father in heaven, You have made me and claimed me. You have given me all that I have. Help me remember that the greatest gift is a place in your family. Help me use all my possessions in ways that are appropriate for a child of Your kingdom. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** The greatest inheritance is given us through the Father's will and consists of eternal treasures. The riches of this world that God gives us are best used to promote justice and bring the poor into God's kingdom of grace.

**OFFERING PRAYER:** Lord, in Your mercy let us seek  
to right the wrongs that crush the meek.  
Now bless these gifts to gracious ends  
that we may win eternal friends. Amen.

**CONVICTION AND COMFORT:** As in Amos' day, so today, not only in the legal system but also in daily life, we turn power to our advantage and make it our goal to win rather than to seek justice. We think we can use the same tactics to win blessings from God instead of bringing blessings to the poor and oppressed in God's kingdom. But God gives the blessing of His eternal rest as an inheritance to those who are His children because they believe in the One He has sent to finish the work we are unable to do.

**Questions to Consider:** What is political about blessings?

- Where did the rich get their blessings in Amos' day?
- According to the Letter to the Hebrews, how can you bring a blessing to other believers?
- Did the young man in the Gospel really need to do one more thing to inherit eternal life?
- What part do blessings play in your life as a follower of Christ?

**BONUS NEXT PAGE**

A hymn: God, Father, You Opened our Eyes

## GOD FATHER, YOU OPENED OUR EYES

God Father, you opened our eyes and we see  
Your gracious protection so that we may be  
Sent forth by your blessing, kept safe and secure.  
Sent forth as God's blessing, we care for the poor.

Lord Jesus, you conquered the forces of hell;  
You gave us a mission and good news to tell,  
Sent forth by your blessing, propelled by your word.  
Sent forth as God's blessing, we herald our Lord.

O Spirit, you called us and made our hearts new;  
You fill us with praise and thanksgiving to you,  
Sent forth by God's blessing, with life from above.  
Sent forth as his blessing, we model his love.

*for LCMS 150th Anniversary  
Theme: "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"  
April, 1997*

*Text: Gilbert A. Franke  
Tune: SLANE (modified) 65 65 65 65  
(LW # 365, "Christ, be My Leader")*