

Messiah Lutheran Church

www.wefoundmessiah.org

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500 Baytree Road

Valdosta, Georgia 31602

Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv.

Ministers: Every Member

Church Office: 244-0143

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June 29, 2008

Proclaiming GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Est. January 3, 1956

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome. Today the church commemorates the apostles Peter and Paul, who according to tradition were martyred on this date.

**WELCOME WITH JOY AND A FEW SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS
RINGING OF THE BELLS AND SILENT MEDITATION**

+ please stand as you are able for these parts of the service

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of compassion,

C we confess that we have failed to bear witness that you desire to draw all people to yourself. In our hearts we have thought ill of those who differ from us, and our love of others has not been genuine. We have been caught up in the cares of the world. We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships. Forgive our sins, merciful God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for those in need, and that our lives may witness to your never-failing love for your creation. Amen.

P Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

- P Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
C **Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.**
The God who created the world and fills it with life
be with you all.
C **And also with you.** (*Greet one another in the pew around with the peace
offered through power of God*)

+ KYRIE (*spoken*)

- P/A In peace let pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P/A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray
to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P/A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the
Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P/A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship
and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P/A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

+ HYMN OF PRAISE LBW, p 81 LSB, p. 171

- P/A This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all
creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world.

C **Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

A READING: Romans 6:

Sin is an enslaving power that motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

+ THE HOLY GOSPEL is announced
P The Gospel according to **St. Matthew 10:**
C Glory to you, O Lord

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE or VBS PRESENTATION

HYMN

LBW # 415

God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.
Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal, Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore, Serving you whom we adore.

TODAY'S MESSAGE

*"The Lion's Den or
Having the Courage to Look Your Lions in the Mouth" Part 8
A series of messages on the Book of Daniel*

Daniel 6 **10** Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. **11** Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. **12** So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." **14** When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15 Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. **18** Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. **20** When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! **22** My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

P/ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the

resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**original and preferred text means throughout the world*

+ PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response:

P Hear us, O God;

C your mercy is great.

OFFERING IS GATHERED

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

C Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

+ SANCTUS

Tune: Old Hundreth LBW # 565

Hosanna to the living Lord! Hosanna to the incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King, Let earth, let heav'n sing!

"Hosanna, Lord!" your angels cry. "Hosanna, Lord!" your saints reply.
Above, beneath us, and around, The dead and living swell the sound.

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Be honor, praise, and glory giv'n By all on earth and all in heav'n.

+ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

+ LORD'S PRAYER

+ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All good gifts come from God.

Come with gratitude to this table of bounty.

DISTRIBUTION Our Beliefs about Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as Jesus says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that we may show forth His death until He comes. Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

LBW # 479

My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away,
Oh, let me from this day Be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;

As thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and change-less be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

BOB # 24

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission-- Christ on the cross,
For my salvation He suffered loss,
Gave up His life and gave up His throne,
Purchased and won me, made me His own.

Refrain

Knowing forgiveness, now I'm at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, trusting His love.

Refrain

Vict'ry o'er Satan, death, and the grave,
O what a joy to know that I'm saved!
Claiming no merit, works of my own,
All glory, praise, be to God alone!

Refrain

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P O God, our provider, you nourish us with holy food and drink, and you open our hearts to the needs of others.

C Refresh us with your Spirit, that our words and deeds may proclaim your creative and life-giving Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ THE BLESSING AND SENDING HYMN

BOB # 183

Peace be yours. May the Lord be with you
As we gather now and your whole life through,
Blessing and mercy and wholeness, too.
May God's peace be yours.

Peace be yours as you scatter from here.
Anywhere you go, God is always near,
Loving and calming your deepest fear.
May God's peace be yours.

Seek your strength where the Lord does abide
When the greatest evil is at your side.
In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides.
May God's peace be yours.

Always know He has conquered the one
Who defies your life in God's only Son.
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.
May God's peace be yours.

+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live the Gospel!

C Thanks be to God.

MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.

Announcements and news for the week of June 29 – July 06, 2008

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes on Summer Break 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30	AM
THURSDAY	Thursday Crafts & Lifelifter Baytree AA Group	9:00 7:30	AM PM
FRIDAY	4 TH OF JULY		
SATURDAY	Baytree AA Group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes on Summer Break 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Patriotic Service for celebrating Independence Day	10:30	AM

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... “God’s Love, Our Response”

2008 Budget Goal	\$ 134,716.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,591.00
Goal to Date	\$ 64,775.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 06/22	\$ 71,157.00
Offering last Sunday for 2008 Budget 06/22	\$ 2,113.00
Weekly average for 25 weeks	\$ 2,846.00

Designated Offerings:

Building Fund	\$ 20.00
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“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that ... having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9: 8)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God’s love to bloom where you are planted from Pr. Richard & Cyndy in honor of their 38th anniversary on June 27.

Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.

Grace & Peace from Pr. Richard

More Luther Rose Seal decals have been ordered that can be placed in the rear window of your car. The decals will display that there is a Lutheran presence in this community. Take one for each of your cars. If you are having trouble making your decal cling to the window, be sure the window is clean and press the decal slowly and carefully onto the window. If that fails, try another decal. + + + On the church year calendar, June 29 may be observed as St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles. two great figures of the early church who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context. In honor of their memory, the following devotion is shared:

Anyone who has ever raised sheep knows the time and commitment it takes to raise an orphan lamb. The shepherd's planned schedule suddenly revolves around bottle-feeding the lamb every two hours day and night. Kneeling in mud and manure, the shepherd holds the "bum" lamb, feeds it, warms it, and protects it. After several days, the knees of the shepherd's pants are stained and aromatic. No laundry product can remove the stain or the smell. Those dirty knees are a sign of sacrifice and faithfulness. They are a reminder of the joy the shepherd feels when the lamb thrives and grows into a healthy, productive sheep.

"Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep," Jesus commands Peter. Don't just care for the cute ones, the cuddly ones. Care for the cranky ones, the stubborn ones. Care for them all. Get your knees dirty.

When he answered "yes" to Jesus three times, Peter was setting aside his own plans in order to feed, protect, and care for the well-being of Jesus' sheep and lambs. It was to be a lifetime commitment for Peter. His knees would be marked forever from kneeling in prayer and working to help others grow in faith.

Paul's knees were stained when he was knocked to the ground by the flash of light from heaven (Acts 9:3). At the sound of Jesus' voice, he too turned away from his life and career goals. Instead, he made the commitment to kneel in prayer and labor in Jesus' name for the new Christian church.

Perhaps we should stop visualizing saints with haloes surrounding their heads and begin picturing them with dirty knees instead. We should

take a good hard look at our own knees and make the commitment to get them dirty. Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS: Chris Vincent, Barbara Gee (7/3); Ruth Coester (7/4); Bailey Pieplow, John Mitchell (7/5). Missed *on this list? Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.*

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Jeff Brown.; Cory Christians (Korea) At US bases: Andrew Vickers (Army Texas), Francis Wasikowski (Army Texas).

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS
Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home (admitted to SGMC in critical condition)

Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home
Mike Lagioia, Heritage House Nursing Home

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:
Prayer requested by Linda Klement for her daughter-in-law, Lindsey, who is undergoing tests for stomach pain and injured shoulder

LIST OF MEMBERS
Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
Bill Boles, undergoing test for Parkinson’s
Camden Jansen, tonsils, adenoids and tubes in ear on July 11
Dan Jansen, recovering from surgery

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS			
Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig’s disease	Rae Hubbard	friend’s brother
Steve Robkin	brain tumor	Teri Williams	Rob’s step-dad
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Bill Horne	cancer	Don Sullins	friend
Pr. Duane Hoyer	brain tumor	Warren Gee	friend
Lil Lawrence	hospice care	Vincent family	sister
Steve Delk	paralysis due to accident	Bo Miller	nephew
Dirk Alexander	cancer	Jan Bristow	friend in Ill.
Jim Ramsey	surgery to remove esophagus	Don Sullins	niece’s father-in-law
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle uncle Mina Ark
Lorna	declining health	Linda Klement	mother in MN
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer’s	Betty Zipperer	sister
Marilyn McGuyrt	chemo resumed	Karin Boles	friend
Millie Kram	pancreatic cancer	Nancy Stewart	friend
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	cancer	Erin Jansen	grandmother

Amber O'Quinn	radiation for brain tumor	Pr Richard	VSU student
Jori Hall	heart transplant list	Friends	LHS student
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker
Betty Wildes	unknown illness, coma	Jan Bristow	friend
Marjorie Priest	car accident serious condition	Jan Bristow	friend
Landon Adkins (age 5)	serious allergic reactions	Janie Jansen	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	tests	Nancy Stewart	mother

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano
 Reader & Communion Assistants
 Acolyte
 Presenter, Children's message
 Greeters
 Nursery
 Ushers

Altar preparation/Chancel care
 Sound tech
 Custodians
 Altar linen
 Flower service
 Flower beds
 Grass cutting
 Floor Maintenance Smith's Janitorials

Kay Vincent
 Rae Hubbard & George Vincent
 Tage France
 Nancy Sult, Linda Welch
 Jeff & Deane Willis
 Karin Boles
 George Vincent, Lisa Vincent
 Lee Keller, Jeff Willis
 Courtney Sheeley
 Volunteer
 Bob & Valerie Behnke
 Fran Sparks, Jan Sparks
 Helen Whitten
 Whitten family
 Fred Daniels 245-0483
 Laverne Smith 229 387-6060

Church Council.....
 Kay Vincent, president
 Jan Sparks, financial secretary
 Jeff Moxley, stewardship
 Bo Miller, worship
 John Mitchell, property

Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
 Kathy Lane, treasurer
 Cindy Mitchell, youth
 Bob Burns, evangelism
 Dana Black, Christian Ed.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

	July 6	July 13	July 20
Reader:	J Moxley	E Sheeley	K Lane
Com Assist:	M Moxley	K Sheeley	N Olsen
Acolyte:	Z Moxley	B Nelson	R Spencer
Chancel:	L Tinney	K Sheeley	C Pieplow
Nursery:	C Pieplow	T Wright	V Behnke
Greeters:	B Zipperer	B Miller	J Sparks
	F Sparks	C Miller	P Simpson
Ushers:	D Rocky	Z Sweeney	E Sheeley
	D Kluball	T France	J Sheeley
	B Boles	M Dauphinas	B Miller
	K Boles	B France	J Moxley

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WATER IN THE NAME OF A DISCIPLE? I'VE GOT MATTHEW OR PETER.



www.agustin.org

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



STAYING ON JESUS' GOOD SIDE!



MATTHEW 10: 37-42

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Living our Response

After long instruction to the disciples regarding where they are to go and what they are to do and say, Jesus finishes by telling them that any hospitality or kindness extended to them or anyone is the same as extending it directly to God. Later in the book of Matthew, Jesus elaborates on this idea when he says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40).

Okay, we get the point: be good to others—if not for the other's sake, then for Jesus' sake! Be kind to others—it doesn't matter whether they are kind! Be kind because God has been kind to us.

This is a difficult teaching to live, isn't it? Have you ever tried to continue to provide cheerful hospitality to someone who has overstayed his or her welcome? Have you ever tried to be nice to someone who is simply not nice in return? Have you ever tried to be generous to someone who needed help even when you weren't sure how you were going to make ends meet that month?

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, God's love for us doesn't depend on our ability to be good or hospitable or generous to each other. We understand that God's grace isn't contingent upon anything we do.

Still, somehow faith ends up requiring much of us. Faith in Jesus molds and changes and refines us, sometimes in terribly uncomfortable ways, especially if we really let it sink into the fabric of our daily lives. A faith like this requires that we ask ourselves: how will I respond to God's grace? How will I live a life of thankfulness? How can I truly come to acknowledge the silhouette of Jesus in every face I see?

It requires that we be generous, kind, and hospitable to each other, for Christ's sake. Amen.

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