



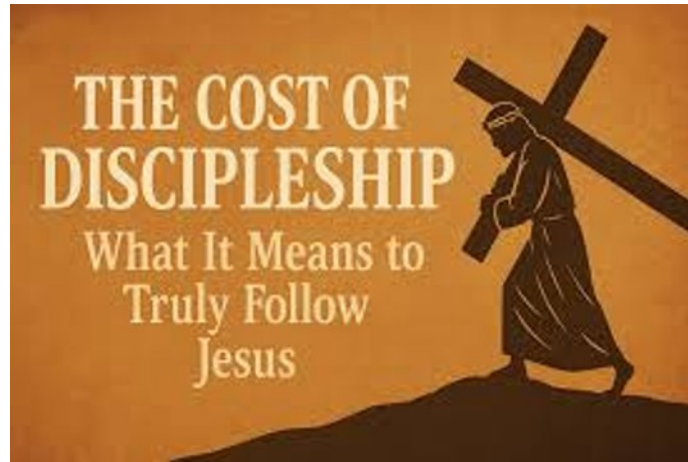
# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

1525 North Power Road  
Mesa AZ 85205

Fax: (480) 832-2583  
Office: (480) 981-6199

## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

ENews for the 4th Sunday of Pentecost, June 21st, 2026



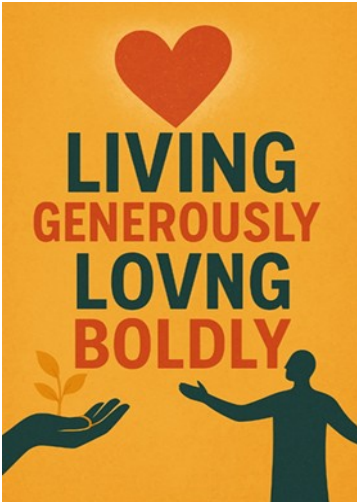
### “Costly, but Life-giving”

In this passage Jesus teaches following is costly but life-giving. It requires public commitment, a willingness to face conflict, and a placing of Christ above all relationships, which will involve personal sacrifices. These are not easy words from our Lord. This passage highlights the tension between grace freely given and the serious, demanding response of discipleship—not to earn salvation, but as the faithful response to Christ’s call. As we consider all the investments of time, effort, and finances we have made over the course of our lifetime, where has our investment in growing as a disciple of Jesus been most evident? Like any valued relationship whether as a spouse, a child, a parent, a sibling, a friend, or employer/employee, each role generally requires a personal commitment to invest in whomever is on the other side of the relationship. Jesus does not call us to abandon our relationships and become monks or nuns, though some in history have. He simply invites us to keep our relationship with God in proper position to all other relationships. Not an easy task.



**The Church Office will be closed on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Federal Juneteenth Holiday.**

Juneteenth, celebrated annually on June 19, is a federal holiday in the United States that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. The holiday marks the historic day in 1865 when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the state’s remaining 250,000 enslaved people two and a half years after the decree was originally signed.



### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift Challenge Update**

The Board of Directors chose to honor the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ministry of Christ through Love of Christ by challenging our congregation to raise \$40,000 by the end of 2026 to share to support new and emerging missions in our synod.

Two were selected. First Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Mesa, which for two decades has been seeking to do ministry with its majority Hispanic neighborhood through hosting an LSS-SW Food Pantry, a public charter school, and offering community education offerings. They also continue to provide weekly worship led by Pastor Luis Ochoa.

The other mission partner is Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan, which runs a coffee shop in downtown Florence, while worshipping in an industrial space shared with a Cross-Fit tenant. San Tan has been one of the fastest growing areas of the metro Phoenix area. Many large retirement communities have been planted in the Florence/San Tan area. Pastor Ryan Marsh has just begun a three-year commitment to develop this ministry to become self-sustaining.

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$40,000 Challenge Gift Update as of 6/1/26-\$29,350**



**VBS is July 6-10 from 8:30 am to 11:00**

VBS is full, but we need more volunteers to help

Thank you so much for all of your help and support; I am so grateful for you!

Laura Ontiveros

[laurakuegemann@gmail.com](mailto:laurakuegemann@gmail.com)

# HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Gracious God, on this Father's Day, we give you thanks for the fathers and father figures who have shaped our lives with love, guidance, and care.

Today, we lift up to you:

- Those who are **fathers**, that they may be granted patience, wisdom, and strength.
- Those who **wish to be fathers** yet face the pain of empty arms or infertility.
- Those with **broken or strained relationships**, that your healing peace may bring reconciliation.
- Those who are **missing their fathers** today, grieving their absence or loss.
- Those **fathers who have lost children**, bearing an unimaginable weight of sorrow.

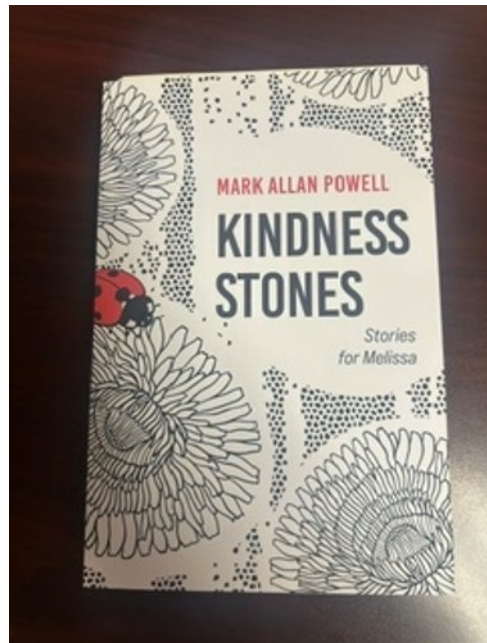
Those **stepfathers, uncles, mentors, and grandfathers** who provide paternal love to those in need.

We rejoice in your enduring, unconditional love for all people, and ask that you wrap everyone in your grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



**Thank you to the staff, volunteers, and amazing Hospitality Team as we hosted 350+ voting members and guests at last week's Grand Canyon Synod Assembly.**

Love of Christ was well represented beyond the hosting team. Voting members were Elizabeth Danielson, Richard Boldt, Jake Solomon, Mike Jones, Jeff Michaels, and both pastors. Jeff and Pastor Nanette also serve on the Synod Council. Member Teri Traaen offered one of the workshops. The Book Nook in the CoC was a busy place and well-received by those attending.



**LoC member Dr. Mark Allan Powell has recently published a new book.**

“In this book,” Mark Allan Powell says, “I offer the world the best that I can do: often humorous but sometimes poignant stories to engage the heart, soul, and mind.”

Here readers will meet a man who has fallen in love seven times, but never fallen out; a teacher whose devotion to children has (so far) distracted her from a guilty past and a present loneliness; a troubled soul who finds meaning in life by recounting tales of Greek mythology to Girl Scouts and vagrants; a retired priest who is (literally) haunted by memories of a girl he once loved.

The stories differ wildly in mood and genre: they may be raucous, sentimental, sexy, or spooky—but they are all entertaining.

Powell says, “Perhaps you’ll laugh; perhaps you’ll cry; perhaps you’ll think (but not too hard—that would not be the point). Enjoy!”



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, July 19 at 10:15 am in the Leadership Room. We will be discussing

**Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi. Here is a synopsis of the book:

One Spring morning, 86 year old Theo arrives in the small Southern town of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there - but when he visits the local coffee-house, where pencil portraits of people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. And so portrait by portrait, person after person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen and the importance of connection and the miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. Who is this Theo of Golden? Is he too good to be believed?



It seems like school just got out but it's already time to think about new school clothes for our children in need. Starting Sunday, June 21st, there will be a cardboard cactus in the narthex of the sanctuary and the COC.

On them will be tags with information about gender and size for a child's clothing. Please help yourself to a tag, or more, and bring the purchased clothes back to church and place them in the box labeled Back to School Clothing next to the cactus. The last Sunday for donating is July 12th. There are so many children that don't get new clothes for school. Remember how excited you were when you got to go shopping for new school clothes each summer? We would like to have that happen to children in need. You are a generous congregation and we thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Vaglio, 509-741-7115.



## An Invitation to Discern Your Call to Serve

Do you sense God may be calling you to serve in new or deeper ways—but aren't sure what that looks like?

**The Grand Canyon Growing in Faith / Diakonia Program** invites you to explore that call through a two-year journey of faith formation, learning, and service.

Designed especially for people with full lives—work, family, and church commitments included.

**Diakonia is not about adding “one more thing” to your schedule.**

It is about growing intentionally in faith, discerning your gifts, and discovering how God may be inviting you to use them.

**This program is for:**

- Lay people seeking deeper spiritual formation
- Those discerning ministry or leadership roles
- Anyone longing to connect faith with daily life and service

**One Hour Information Sessions**

Saturday, June 20 @ 9 AM - Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83901638524>

Monday, June 22 @ 7 PM - Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87320535473>

Tuesday, July 7 @ 5 PM - Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87150113546>

Sunday, July 12 @ 3 PM - Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84383547553>

Questions or to register: [tinag963@gmail.com](mailto:tinag963@gmail.com)

Take the next faithful step—talk to your pastor and see where God may be leading you. New Cohorts are forming now. Classes begin August 24 or 25. Options include Monday or Tuesday evenings from 6-9 PM. All classes are via Zoom.

Visit our Website for more information: [www.diakonia.education](http://www.diakonia.education)

### Music Notes....



Please contact Jung Lee at [jungmusic@loclc.org](mailto:jungmusic@loclc.org) for how you can be involved with the music program.

**With gratitude and excitement,**  
Jung Lee



### Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at [ketts4az@gmail.com](mailto:ketts4az@gmail.com)

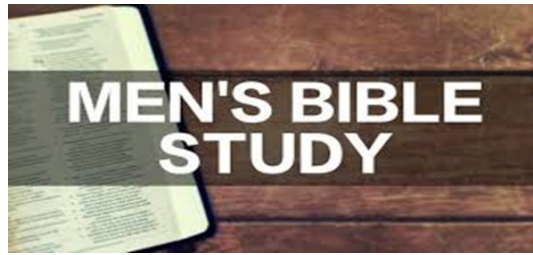
### Community Garden News



Think about trying out a garden in the fall. We are all learning new things and getting to know new people in the fresh air. Contact Nancy. [Dntoll74@gmail.com](mailto:Dntoll74@gmail.com)



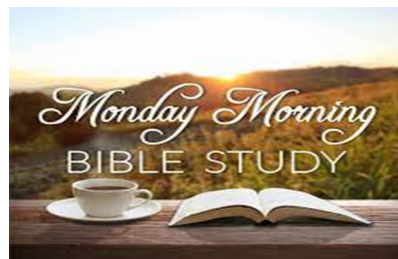
**Naomi Circle will meet on July 13th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!**



**Monday Men's Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**



**Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or [loveofchristchurch.net](http://loveofchristchurch.net)**



**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room  
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study at 11AM**



### **Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study**

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. ***This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room.*** Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: [mswiss43@gmail.com](mailto:mswiss43@gmail.com) and Ruth: [ruthleonard@icloud.com](mailto:ruthleonard@icloud.com) )



**YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST**  
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Youth meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in Youth room.  
Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at [masonw@loclc.org](mailto:masonw@loclc.org)



**Confirmation**

Confirmation will resume in September. Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org)

**Faith Food and Fun**



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet again on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> for an Overnight event in the CoC. Please contact Laura Ontiveros ([laurakuegemann@gmail.com](mailto:laurakuegemann@gmail.com)) for more information.



Sunday School will begin in August! Children age 4 to grade 2 come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loclc.org](mailto:nanette@loclc.org).

**Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:**

**July 6-10 VBS** ages 4 -12 register online

**Next Family Promise August 2-9.**

**Summer Donation Opportunities:**

**Donation Opportunities**

**Donations needed for sack lunches to be given to Christ's Church respite center and for our own cooling center. Items needed:**

**Tuna or Chicken packs, Vienna Sausage small cans, soft chewy granola bars, boxes of a variety or chips or crackers, boxes of Capri-Sun. These items for sack lunches will be collected throughout the summer. (June-September)**

**Vacation Bible School: Back to school supplies including backpacks, notebooks, pencils, markers, erasers, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks.**



**Water Donation:** Last year we donated water to the City of Mesa and to Grace in the City Lutheran Church. The money that is donated will be sent to these two organizations. If you would like to donate water, please place money labeled "Water Donation" in the offering plate, or go online and specify water donation, or bring a gift card.

### **Living Water Cooling Center and meals at Christ's Church Respite Center**

This July, Love of Christ Lutheran Church will open its doors on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as a designated Cooling Center, providing a place of welcome, rest, and relief from Arizona's summer heat.

As temperatures continue to rise, many in our community face dangerous conditions, especially those who are unhoused or living in mobile homes and other residences that can become extremely hot during the day. Our Cooling Center will offer a safe, air-conditioned space where neighbors can come to cool down, enjoy a cold drink, and experience hospitality and care.

We are grateful for the overwhelming response from our congregation. At this time, we have all the volunteers needed to staff the Cooling Center throughout July. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to serve and to all who have supported this ministry through your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. If you have questions about this ministry, please contact Charles Martiny at [smartiny@cox.net](mailto:smartiny@cox.net).

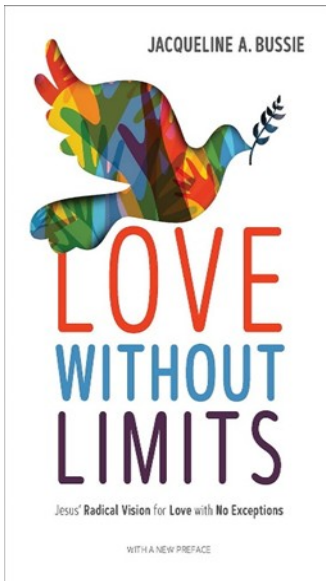
Love of Christ is also partnering with Christ Church Respite Center, which serves members of the Mesa community who need a safe place of rest and support. In addition to our Cooling Center ministry, we will be helping provide meals on Fridays at the Respite Center. If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact Cindy Wallin ([cgeorgen3199@gmail.com](mailto:cgeorgen3199@gmail.com)) or Melissa Weiss-Riner ([melissa@azfls.com](mailto:melissa@azfls.com)) for more information.

As we did last year, we will also be providing sack lunches to Christ's Church Respite Center and for our Cooling Center as well. If you have any questions about this, please contact Patti Delaney at [pattidelaney03@gmail.com](mailto:pattidelaney03@gmail.com). Items needed for donation are listed above.

These ministries reflect our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Through simple acts of compassion, hospitality, and service, we have the opportunity to care for our neighbors and share the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Please continue to keep these ministries, our volunteers, and all who seek refuge from the heat, hunger, or hardship in your prayers. May God use these efforts to provide comfort, safety, and a reminder that every person is valued, welcomed, and loved.

*We are Called, Gathered, and Sent to share the Love of Christ.*



**Love Without Limits will meet on Wednesday, July 1st at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.**

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)?

This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits! They will be discussing Chapters 9 and 10.



Young Adults will meet again in July and do a service project! They will meet on July 12 at 12:00 in the CoC!

**Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:**

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children, along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at [norden6162@gmail.com](mailto:norden6162@gmail.com)

# CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES



Did you know there is a way you can make a lasting impact with Love of Christ and receive guaranteed income for life? A Charitable Gift Annuity can make that happen.

## What is a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)?

A charitable gift annuity, or CGA, is a simple contract between you and Love of Christ that provides a fixed income payment for life for those age 65 or older. In exchange for making a gift now to the **Love of Christ Endowment Fund**, you will receive regular (quarterly, semiannual, or annual) fixed payments during your lifetime, and if you choose, for the lifetime of a spouse or another person. At the end of life, any remainder of the annuity will benefit Love of Christ. You may also choose a Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity, which will allow you to receive your payments later.

Contact your financial advisor or get free information from the ELCA Foundation at <https://foundation.elca.org/charitable-gift-annuities>



## **Don Thompson Legacy Fund and LoC Board Gift provide \$14,950 to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Rock Point, AZ for new commercial appliances to support Ho'zho' Café**

What is “hózhó”? Hozho defines the essence of Navajo (or Diné) philosophy. It encompasses beauty, order, and harmony, and expresses the idea of striving for balance. A future with Hozho is the vision for our work in Rock Point. Through the Café, weekly meals gather community for those who face food insecurity or isolation. Pictured here are LoC VP Jake Solomon, Board member Elizabeth Danielson, LoC Secretary Mike Jones, Board member Richard Boldt, NELM staff members Patterson Yazzie and Patty Charley, and Pastor Nanette Christofferson. With this gift, the Don Thompson Legacy Fund has now been dispersed per the family’s wishes of supporting our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift with \$2,000 and this gift of \$9,695 to NELM.

## BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: [barnett105@gmail.com](mailto:barnett105@gmail.com)

- 2 Methods of finishing the edges of the blankets
- Sewing around the edges
- Crocheting around the edges
- Both methods start the same

Lay Fabric on a table, trim off the Salvage edges of the fleece;

- Sewing around the edges

Fold  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch around the edge ;

Pin the folded edges all around the edge;

Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing

If your machine only does Zig Zag, that is great also.

- Optional--Baste  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of fold around the edge of the fleece with a needle and thread (Optional)

OR

- Just fold the fabric over about  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch and cut very small slits in the fold;
- Slits should be no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in length and around  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch from the each other
- If you basted around the edges

Remove the basting from the fleece

- If you have a rotary cutter, you can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)

1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push the crochet hook through the slit next to the one just used (back to front) and pull a loop back through the slit. (You will have 2 loops on the crochet hook.)
5. With the 2 loops still on the hook, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops. Now chain 2 more times.
6. Proceed around the fleece using steps 4 and 5.
7. To turn a corner, follow steps 4 and 5, but insert the hook again in the same slit and do 1 chain and then insert the hook again and perform steps 4 and 5, Then you should be on a new side of the blanket and proceed following steps 4 and 5

There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Jeremiah 20:7-13**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(14 min)**



YouTube: [https://youtu.be/m\\_7f9n46S\\_o](https://youtu.be/m_7f9n46S_o)

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/4370394823219047/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

**Scripture Lesson**  
**A Brief Look at Matthew 10:24-39**  
**with Pastor Steve Talmage**  
**(14 min)**



A Brief Look at  
Matthew  
10:24–39

Sunday, January 21, 2026



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gu7cILuOxFs>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/27431326163171616/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, June 21, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  & 

## Pastor Steve Talmage “Costly, but Life-giving”

### Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”  
For the word of the Lord has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

If I say, “I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,”  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
For I hear many whispering:  
“Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
“Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him.”  
But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord;  
praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

### Romans 6:1-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### Matthew 10:24-39

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.