



About the Cover

The members of the Body of Christ are called to daily build up one another in the Word of the Lord. The "deceitfulness of sin" would seek to lead us to a hardened denial of our need for forgiveness. Even through correction and reproof, the Lord uses the Christian Church to lead us to the truth of Christ's forgiveness. He is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

- ⁶ 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,
- ⁷ O you who turn justice to worm-
wood
and cast down righteousness to
the earth! . . .
- ¹⁰ They hate him who reproves in
the gate,
and they abhor him who speaks
the truth.
- ¹¹ 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.
- ¹² 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.
- ¹³ Therefore he who is prudent will
keep silent in such a time,
for it is an evil time.
- ¹⁴ 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.
- ¹⁵ 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.

Epistle: Hebrews 3:12–19

¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵As it is said,

"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in
the rebellion."

¹⁶For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Holy Gospel: Mark 10:17–22

¹⁷As [Jesus] 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?" ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You 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.'" ²⁰And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹And 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." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.