

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The corruptible world most values what is corruptible. The world places great value on silver and gold. All things that we have are good gifts of God. But unbelief makes mammon out of God's gifts. Lust for more, covetousness, hoarding, and self-defining based on material wealth are the ways of fallen men.

The conduct of those enamored of the corruptible the Apostle calls aimless. Like grass that withers, like a flower falls away, so are the things of the world. And so is the man who trusts in them.

So do not be like them. Do not be a lover of silver and gold. Do not let them become unto you an idol. God indeed provides daily bread through means: through job and employer, through vocation and work, through paycheck and retirement fund. But remember - it is God who provides.

He is the gracious giver of all good things. Job and employer, vocation and work, paycheck and investments and retirement fund wither like grass, and fall away like a flower. And so does the man who trusts in them.

But there is a Gift of God that is eternal. There is an everlasting Gift, a life-giving Gift, a redeeming and salvific Gift: the Blood of Christ. The Blood that wet the sands of the Via Dolorosa, the Blood that issued forth from the Holy Wound in Jesus' side, the Blood shed for you for the remission of your sins, is God's eternal Gift to you.

In this Gift, this precious life that flows from the Savior and into you, you have redemption. Because the Gift is eternal, so is your redemption eternal. It never withers or fades. The Lamb without spot or blemish died for you. His death was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but manifest in these last times.

The Apostle writes to teach you of a marvelous mystery: God chose you from eternity, from the foundation of the world. But the God who chose you won your salvation in time, on the cross, that your salvation be timeless, everlasting.

He purchased you with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish or spot, the Lamb foreordained before the foundation of the world, the Lamb manifest in these last times. For you, who through Him believe in God, there is faith and hope

By the life-giving Spirit you receive in your Baptism, your soul is purified as that Spirit leads you to obey the truth, the eternal, unchanging Word of God. The Spirit brings you rebirth, and in Him you do not live for temporal things, rather in faith you live in love for God, and in sincere love for one another.

The corruptible things are necessary for this life. God knows that. He knows what you need before you ask. And God graciously provides them. But the incorruptible things, the eternal things, the things of God, avail for this life and for the life to come.

Now, here, in this life, God's Word brings you comfort, strength and joy. His Body and Blood, given and shed for you,

bring you the forgiveness and life that Jesus won by His cross and His empty tomb. Through these He strengthens you to endure the tribulations that this corruptible world brings.

By His gifts you are able to withstand the temptations and disappointments of this world, eyes fixed on Jesus, and on the world to come.

So take and eat, take and drink, of that which does not wither or fade. Hear the saving Word of God, believe, and live. For you, dear Christian, are redeemed not with corruptible things, but with the precious Blood of Christ.

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.