Week 16 – Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2026

Word of God: *Built His House on The Rock*

Gathering Song *Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (ELW 333)*

Daily Prayer *Jesus, Jesus you are with me as I step into this day.*
Let me hear you gently calling, "Precious child, walk this way."
Jesus, Jesus when I hear you, calling me to follow you,
In that hour, give me grace to love my neighbor like you do. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 7:24 Context: 24-29 Built His House On The Rock

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Devotional Thoughts First, hear these words AND second, put them into practice. Why is practicing a skill so important? I remember being told to practice when I was learning how to play the piano. I would get distracted each week and forget to practice. My piano teacher could always tell when I hadn't practiced enough. How could she tell? Because I didn't get any better. No practicing = no improvement.

The same applies to living out our baptismal promise to hear the word of God. Practicing helps in making something a part of our routine. Because there are so many things going on in each of our lives, we need reminders. Perhaps we need to put "practicing the words of God" into our calendar the same way we put cleaning the house, getting groceries and changing the oil in the car in our schedule.

Because here is the thing…when I practiced playing the piano, my skill improved and I felt better about the work that I had put into getting better each week. Plus, people who were listening noticed and realized that if they practiced at something, they might improve their skills as well. We learn from each other's example.

This Week's Challenge? Think about your daily routine. How can reading the bible and putting the word into practice be included in this routine? Perhaps you already have a designated time for prayer, devotion and reading the bible. Is there someone you could invite into this routine? Is it possible to share your practice time with others? Your challenge this week is to work on the "putting into practice" aspect of your routine. How can you live out the word of God in the everyday parts of your life as well?

Affirmation of Christian Vocation: **Make the sign of the cross on your forehead (or if you are doing this devotion with others, make the sign on the forehead of another) while saying…**

All that we do belongs to God—our work and our rest.
We follow Jesus with thankful hearts and open hands, serving our neighbor in love.
Morning and evening, at work and at play, our life is in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN