Part 2 – 1 Corinthians 15:12–28
Now and Then, But Still One Harvest
Leader’s Guide
(Vide 29 minutes)

Warm up questions pre-video: (10 minutes)
Read Revelation 7:9–10
   - Where do we go when we die?
     - An intermediate state.
       Body and spirit are separated—body in the ground, spirit in heaven.

Read Revelation 21:1–4
   - Is death the fulfillment of our Lord’s promise to His church?
     - Sin is the cause of death. The fulfillment of our Lord’s promise is the resurrection to eternal life in the New Heaven and New Earth.

Read John 3:16–18
   - Are Lutherans “saved” in the sense some other Christian denominations proclaim they are?
     - Yes.
     - We are saved through the waters of baptism where we receive the promise of forgiveness. (Passive faith)
     - Christ is active in our lives through his word and sacraments and in the continued acts of love and forgiveness. (Active faith)
     - We are condemned by our lack of faith by the sin of unbelief.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12–28
   - Does God’s promise of salvation and the truths of Scripture align themselves with worldly logic and reason?
     - Using human logic and reason the truth of the gospel does not make much sense.
     - Our Lord’s agape love (sacrificial all giving love) for us works beyond our logic and reason.
     - All of our powers and wisdom must remain subject to the Lord, who is “all in all.”

   - In the Apostles’ Creed we confess that we believe that Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. What is Jesus’s role today?
     - Jesus is reigning in heaven over his creation.
     - Everything is under Jesus’s feet.
     - The Father has his work of creation; the Son has his work of reigning
Post-video follow up questions: (20 minutes)

- If in Christ we have hope in this physical life only, why are we, as Paul states in 15:19, “of all people most to be pitied”?
  - If Christ’s resurrection was false our faith has been a fallacy.
  - If there is no resurrection for us, there was no resurrection of Christ.
  - Without the resurrection there is nothing.
  - Life after life after death (N. T. Wright):
    - First Summit (Death)
      Being at rest with Christ.
    - Real Summit (Resurrection)
      New immortal life with Christ in his glory.

Read: Romans 6:3, 4
Titus 3:4–7
Romans 5:11

- From the video discussion what does “baptized in Christ” mean to us in light of Romans 6:3, 4? Titus 3:4–7? As Christians are we “saved”? Are we “born again” Christians?
  - Romans 6:3, 4 - Our resurrected hope is given to us through Christ’s gift of the sacrament of baptism.
  - Titus 3:4–7 - We are saved not based on our works but by the new life (being born again) through the Holy Spirit, by Jesus Christ in the waters of baptism.
  - Regeneration – New life, I have been born again.
  - Romans 5:11 - It is through Christ and him alone that we are reconciled with God the Father.
  - We have been saved through the promise of baptism; we look forward to being saved in the resurrection.
  - Luther’s Small Catechism questions #133 through 135

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–13

- Referring to 1 Corinthians 13:4–13 and the video discussion, what does being saved and living eternally in God’s love mean?
  - Saved is a gift received by faith.
  - Saved by sight where faith is no longer necessary.
  - The greatest of these is love because:
    - The day will come when we don’t have to live in faith anymore.
    - The day will come when we won’t have to hope for anything.
    - It will all be here in the resurrection.
    - God’s love alone will characterize God’s relationship with us and our relationship with God and each other.

- What does it mean that Jesus is the “firstfruits of the harvest”?
  - The firstfruits of a harvest are those picked that guarantee the quality of the rest of the harvest.
  - There is one Great Harvest. Jesus is the firstfruits that guarantee the rest of the harvest to come.
  - The harvest began with Christ’s resurrection and will end when Christ comes back again for the fulfillment of the resurrection.