

AUGUST 3, 2025



THE PARABLE OF THE

rich fool

Luke 12:13-21

american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- * Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship @ 10 am
- * Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

Welcome to Worship

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(Congregation, please stand)

****All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin..

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround

us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #768 Lead Me, Guide Me

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW pg. 203-204 *in the red hymnal*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent God, **you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

^{1:2} Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one

(Second Reading continued on page 4)

who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.
²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 49:1-12

My mouth shall speak of wisdom. (Psalm 49:3)

¹Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

²**you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

⁷One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

Colossians 3:1-11

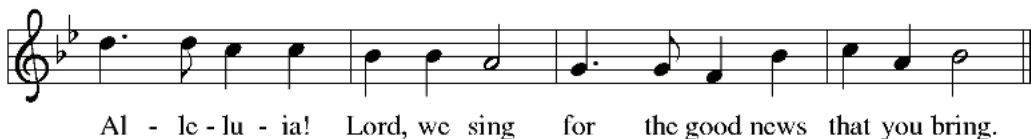
¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty."

Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #589 All Depends on Our Possessing

(Congregation, please stand)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions end "God of grace" Congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY **ELW #686** We Give Thee but Thine Own *(vs. 1 and 2)*

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.,
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850
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OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.
(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ELW #515 Break Now the Bread of Life

ELW #449 We Know That Christ is Raised

(Congregation, please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit \dagger bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #650 In Christ there Is No East or West

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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