

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 31, 2022

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**
Amen.

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Congregational Favorites

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALM - PSALM 98

¹O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things...

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the LORD.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW page#172

The Holy Gospel according to the twelfth chapter of Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

MESSAGE

Rev. Judy Thompson-Reitz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“*Take My Life, That I May Be*” ELW #685
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)

THE APOSTLE’S 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

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice.

Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first

responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress. Renew us at your table of mercy.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
Amen.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

**As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.**

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

**and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory” ELW #705
(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God’s Word.

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