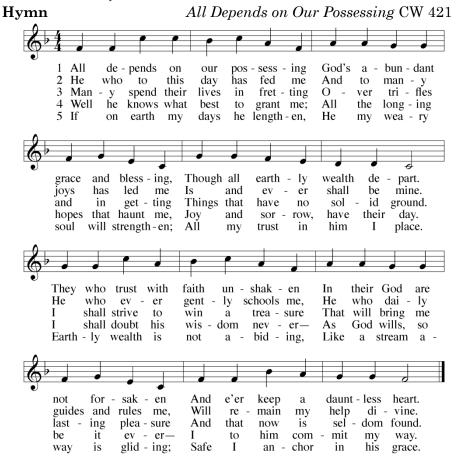
August 6, 2023

The Season After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

The Sunday This Sunday's readings are centered around the very ancient Prayer of the Day. For nearly 1600 years God's people on this day have prayed that God might give them true spiritual wealth. "Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised." What a magnificent prayer for the materialist world in which we live! Our lessons today show people who have come into great wealth, but yet this earthly wealth only serves to illustrate where true treasure lies. Today we see that true, spiritual wealth can only be found in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ.. The Christian seeks spiritual wealth. Morning Praise is a revision of the historic Order of Matins. Matins was the service marking the beginning of the new day. Joined to Christ our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of the new day.



Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78. alt.

Tune: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN (887 887) Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, alt.

Morrison Zion Evangelical **Lutheran Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



ZION

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the Gospel and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

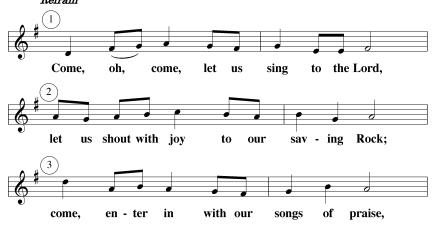
If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

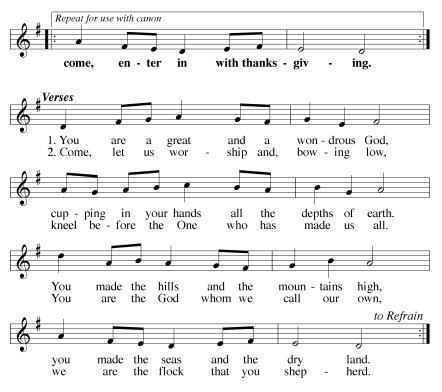
Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Stand



Come, Oh, Come Let Us Sing To The Lord The congregation will sing the refrain and verses *Refrain*

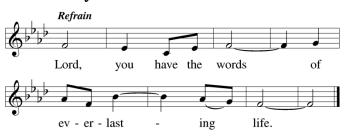




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Be Seated

Psalm of the Day





Teach me, O LORD, to follow <u>your</u> decrees;* then I will keep them <u>to</u> the end.

Give me understanding, and I will <u>keep</u> your law* and obey it with <u>all</u> my heart.

Psalm 119b CW

Direct me in the path of <u>your</u> commands,* for there I <u>find</u> delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
preserve my life according to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your <u>ser</u>vant,* so that you <u>may</u> be feared.

How I long for your <u>pre</u>cepts!*

Preserve my life in your <u>right</u>eousness.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beg<u>inning</u>,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. @ 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson 1 Timothy 6:17-21

Could Paul's words be more timely or appropriate for this generation? He instructs preachers everywhere to warn the rich about the two pet sins of the wealthy: arrogance and false hope. Mankind so easily falls in the error of thinking that earthly treasures can provide security or a sense of worth. In our affluent society both of those sins run rampant in many a Christian heart. God commands us not to trust in earthly treasure because he wants us to have a firm foundation on which to stand. That can only be found in spiritual wealth. God richly provides for us, and then we give thanks by being rich in good deeds. Spiritual wealth is certain and secure, for it is treasure laid up in heaven. How can we possibly carry out this command? Teach us to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised.

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

 20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all. (NIV)

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus' parables teach us to seek spiritual wealth. Both of the men in the parables found great treasure. For one it was a complete surprise, as unexpected as it was valuable. For the other it came from an expert search by a discerning man. Before they found these new treasures, both men no doubt valued what they previously owned. But once they saw this new treasure, see how little they valued all else they had! The spiritual wealth of Christ and his Gospel puts everything else into perspective; in fact it marginalizes all else. The importance of this truth comes to light in the parable of the net. All people, rich and poor, will be caught up. Only those who found true spiritual wealth are spared the furnace.

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

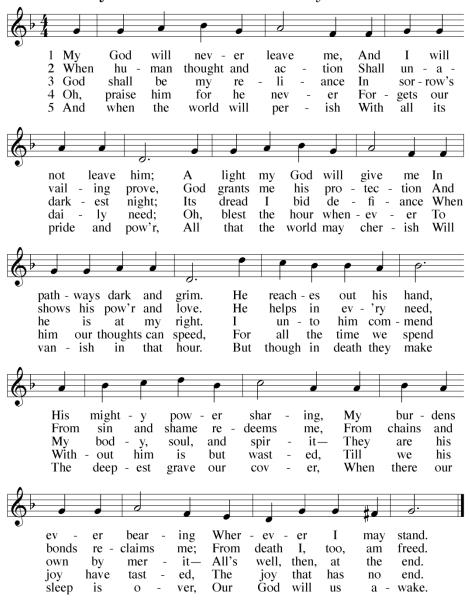
"Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (NIV)

Seasonal Response

M: Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Hymn of the Day



Text: Ludwig Helmbold, 1532–98, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1, 4-5, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 2-3, alt.

Tune: VON GOTT WILL ICH NICHT LASSEN (76 76 67 76) Recueil de plusieurs chansons, Lyons, 1557, alt.

Sermon The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth 1 Kings 3:5-12

What would you have asked for? If anything in the world could be yours, what would be your request? God only gave one man the choice between unlimited riches and spiritual wealth. Can you imagine facing his dilemma? What should I pick, temporal blessings or eternal ones? What should I value, the things of this world or the things of God? How well Solomon expressed the words of our Prayer for today, to ask according to God's will. We marvel at his faith in choosing great wisdom over great riches—especially since we so often fail in the pitifully small choices we make! It's not for all the riches in the world that we turn down spiritual wealth, but for paltry over-time hours, or a little extra in the check book that we shaved off our offering. For such small things we are willing to trade away opportunities for true spiritual wealth. Look at Solomon and see an example of what God means by spiritual wealth. He doesn't mean we need to live as mendicant monks; he doesn't ask us to forgo all earthly treasure. He just doesn't want us to value them more than the pearl of great price. After choosing spiritual treasure, God blessed Solomon in unbelievable ways. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶ Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷ "Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. (NIV)

Be Seated



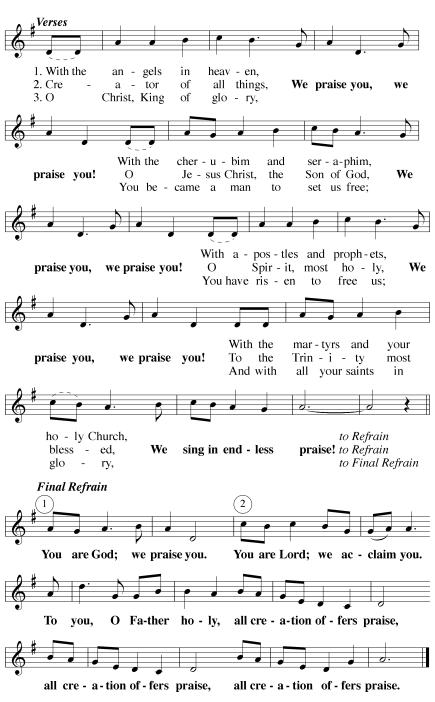
The congregation will sing the refrain and the verses



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



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Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie



Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Prayer of the Day

M: O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

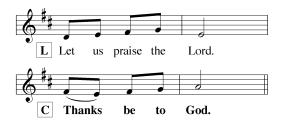
C: Amen.

Prayer for Grace

M: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according

to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

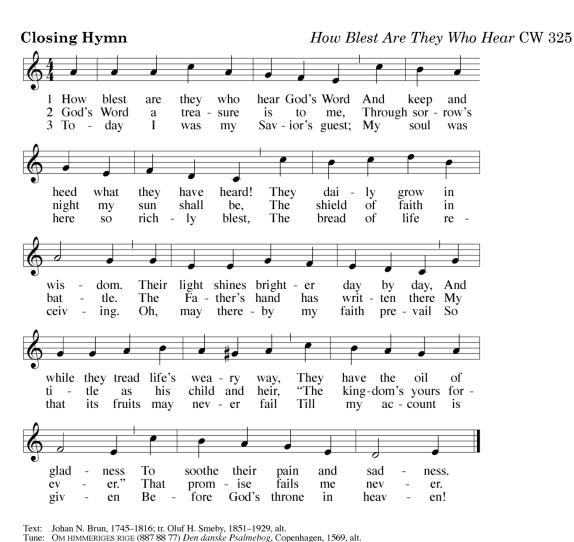
C: Amen.





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Be Seated



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