

The Season The Sundays after Pentecost focus on how Christians live in response to all that God has done for us. Our series now focuses on: *The Believer Follows Christ*

The Sunday Earthly wealth is meaningless without God. The meaning of life cannot be found in the abundance of earthly possessions but in the abundance of heavenly blessings. The believer recognizes that everything the world seeks and offers is meaningless. Rather, he sets his heart on the treasure found in the fullness of Christ. The Follower of Christ knows earthly wealth is meaningless.

Opening Hymn

Jesus Priceless Treasure CW 349:1,4,5



1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my
 5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of



plea - sure, Tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long
 plea - sure; Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp -
 glad - ness, Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love



in an - guish Shall my spir - it lan - guish,
 ty glo - ry! Naught to me thy sto - ry
 the Fa - ther, Though the storms may ga - ther,



Yearn - ing, Lord, for thee? Thou art mine, O
 Told with tempt - ing voice. Pain or loss Or
 Still have peace with - in. Yea, whate - 'er I



Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer naught to
 shame or cross Shall not from my Sav - ior
 here must bear, Thou art still my pur - est



hide thee, Naught I ask be - side thee.
 move me Since he deigns to love me.
 plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3.
 Tune: JESU, MEINE FREUDE (665 665 34 86) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

Stand

**Morrison Zion
 Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical
 Lutheran Synod



**MORRISON
 ZION
 LUTHERAN**

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.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

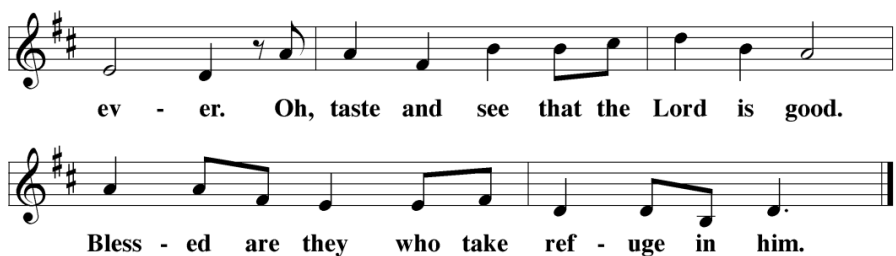
C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:18-26

The Teacher, King Solomon, had more riches and worldly pleasure than we can comprehend, but experience had taught him that they are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Yet, in an effort to find meaning in life, so many pursue the “stuff” this sinful world offers. In the end, having the most toys adds up to nothing but an inheritance squandered by fools. Rather, true wealth, true value, true satisfaction only comes from the hand of God. If one seeks to find meaning in life, search no further than the wisdom and knowledge of God.

² “Meaningless! Meaningless!”

says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (NIV)

Refrain



Hap-py the peo-ple the Lord has cho-sen to be his own.

Psalm tone



Taste and see that the LORD is good;*
blessed are they who take refuge in him.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous*
and his ears are attentive to their cry.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,*
and he delivers them.

Refrain

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;*
he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted*
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The LORD redeems his servants;*
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Columba Kelly. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

James 5:1-11

The trap has been set and sprung for those who seek after wealth. Their very actions accuse and condemn them. The idolatry of greed has seized their hearts, driving them to deception and even to the point of murder in order to satiate their carnal lusts. Here is warning for us as we recognize in ourselves the same epicurean aptitude so prevalent in our hedonistic society. But God be praised, the old Adam has been buried and the new man arisen in Christ. Our hearts no longer find comfort in the temporal, but only in the eternal. The imminent judgment of the Lord no longer threatens us, but comforts us as we patiently endure the temptations of the flesh and wait for the Lord.

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.^[a] **6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. **8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **9** Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Alleluia. (John 14:23)

Stand

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

It is shocking to hear Jesus deny authority over anything, much less something as mundane as an inheritance. But finally, that is the point. Earthly wealth is meaningless. The man called Jesus "teacher" but hadn't learned the lesson. So Jesus teaches him and us how foolish it is to think that life consists of what we have. By contrast, the life of faith is lived in joyful thanksgiving for both the temporal and eternal blessings that come from above. By faith, this, then, is being rich toward God—a life of thanksgiving for all that he has given us through Jesus.

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" **15** Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. **17** He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. **19** And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly CW 484



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly Give to
2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, By the
3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice For the



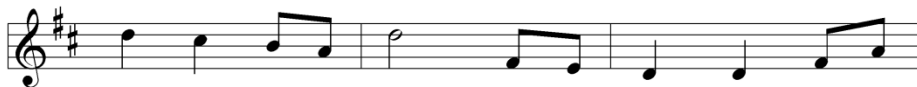
God our all, our best— Ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough,
gift of Christ, his Son, What great good - ness he has
sake of Christ, your Son; Lo, our hope a - bides now



hon - est, With a liv - ing love im - pressed.
shown us, What high mar - vels he has done!
on - ly In the right - eous - ness he won.



All our du - ty, all our striv - ing, All our
Let us to him prompt - ly, free - ly, Yield our
Bless and save us; help and guide us; Watch to



time to him be - long; Praise him, then, with true de -
bod - ies and our souls, Thank - ful that his love pro -
com - fort and re - store Till in heav'n we rest re -



vo - tion; Come be - fore him with a song.
tects us, That his wis - dom all con - trols.
joic - ing, Prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802-72, alt.

Tune: NETTLETON (87 87 D) *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813, alt.

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Be Seated

Hymn

Forgive Us, Lord CW 482:1-2



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
2 Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,



For songs of praise for world - ly wealth - i - ness,
For Christ, your Son, and for each hu - man face



While of your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware.
That shows your mes - sage ev - er new and near.

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