

July 31 & Aug 3, 2025  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



*Art inspired by the Gospel Lesson*

## Undivided Attention On Useful Resources

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Money. Possessions. Perhaps more than anything else, those things have the power to turn our attention away from what is truly important. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus frequently teaches about wealth. Christ wants us to understand that it is our heavenly Father who provides us with those useful resources. But we need to know why our Father gives them: what they are useful for, and what they are not useful for. Those resources cannot give purpose or meaning to our lives on earth. They cannot give us security for life after this earth. However, the blessings God provides can bring some joy to our lives. More importantly, our wealth is extremely useful in our efforts to serve God and others. This week let us give our undivided attention to what Christ says about the useful resources our gracious Father provides to us.

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## Opening Hymn

## What Is the World To Me CW<sup>21</sup> 717:1-3



1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure  
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,  
3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!  
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.  
a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;  
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;  
My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!  
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!  
my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

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### INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

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

**Congregation: And also with you.**

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.**

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## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

### Hymn

### What Is the World To Me CW<sup>21</sup> 717:4

4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,  
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,  
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.  
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**M** O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

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## THE WORD

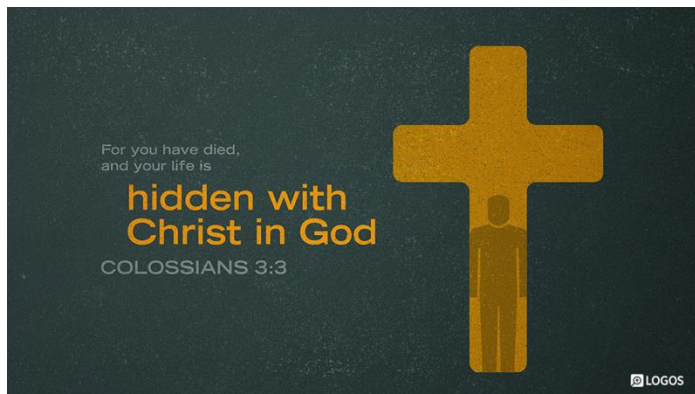
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### First Lesson

### Colossians 3:1–11

Believers are liberated from the idolatry of greed as they put to death their sinful nature and are renewed in their new life in Christ

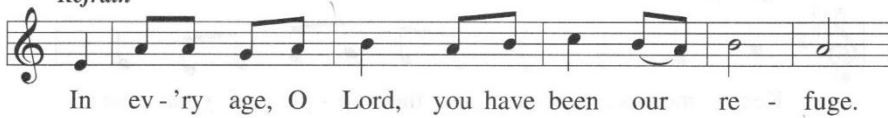
<sup>1</sup> Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> So put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> You too once walked in these things, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now, you too are to rid yourselves of all of these: wrath, anger, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other since you have put off the old self with its practices, <sup>10</sup> and put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in knowledge, according to the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but rather Christ is all and is in all. (EHV)



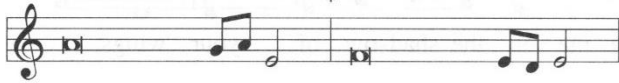
## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90 CW<sup>93</sup>

### Refrain



### Psalm tone



Lord, you have been our dwelling place\*  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has just gone by,\*  
or like a watch in the night.

### Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust.\*  
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;\*  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright,\*  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

### Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,\*  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**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

## Gospel

## Luke 12:13–21

Greed's folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.

<sup>13</sup> Someone from the crowd said to *Jesus*, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.” <sup>16</sup> He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. <sup>17</sup> He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’” <sup>18</sup> He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will tell my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’” <sup>21</sup> “That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” (EHV)

## Children's Devotion

*Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.*



## Hymn of the Day

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past *CW<sup>21</sup> 820*



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Ecclesiastes 1:1–2, 12-14, 2:18-26

<sup>1:1</sup> The words of Ecclesiastes, David's son, king in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> "Nothing but vapor," Ecclesiastes said. "Totally vapor. Everything is just vapor that vanishes." ...

<sup>12</sup> I, Ecclesiastes, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my heart to seek out and explore with wisdom everything done under the sky. (What a burdensome task God has given the children of Adam to keep them busy!) <sup>14</sup> I have seen all the actions done under the sun, and, look, it is all nothing but vapor. It is all chasing the wind. ...

<sup>2:18</sup> I also hated all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard under the sun, since I must leave it all to the man who comes after me. <sup>19</sup> And who knows—will he be wise, or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard and so wisely, under the sun. This too is vapor that vanishes. <sup>20</sup> So I changed my course, and my heart began to despair over all my hard work at which I worked so hard under the sun. <sup>21</sup> Sure, there may be a man who has worked hard—wisely, aptly, and skillfully. But he must hand over whatever he accumulated by all his hard work to a man who has not worked hard for it. This too is vapor. It's so unfair! <sup>22</sup> For what does a man gain through all his hard work, through all the turmoil in his heart, as he works so hard under the sun? <sup>23</sup> Pain fills all his days. His occupation is frustration. Even at night his heart does not rest. This too is vapor. <sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a man than to eat and to drink and to find joy in his work. This too, I saw, is from God's hand. <sup>25</sup> For who can eat or enjoy himself apart from him? <sup>26</sup> Yes, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness to the man whom he considers good, but to the person who goes on sinning God gives the task of gathering and collecting, but only so that he can give it all to a person whom God considers good. This too is vapor, nothing but chasing wind. (EHV)

*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.

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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O Lord, our dwelling place for all generations, we remember that we are dust. Still, bless us daily with your unfailing love.

Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

You give us blessings without number. Set our minds on things above, and on you, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Keep us from coveting and from making idols of earthly things.

Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

Give meaning to those whose lives have become meaningless. Reveal yourself and your saving plan to all people that they may rid themselves of every sinful practice, and may be renewed in knowledge and in the image of you, their Creator.

Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

Lord our God, you are the ruler of all the nations of the earth. Give us good and wise leaders who know and work for what is right. Give all citizens of our land the desire to work together for the common good.

Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

In your mercy and love, remember those who suffer for your sake and risk their lives by holding and sharing the Christian faith. Strengthen them in every hardship that they may remain faithful to you until you give them the crown of life.  
Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

With your Word, you give us unlimited value since Christ is all and is in all. Have mercy on those whose days are filled with pain and who lack rest. [*We pray especially for...* ]. Renew their health and strength that they may enjoy the many gifts from your hand.

Teach us to number our days, **that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you the prayers from the depths of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

O Lord, have mercy on us and strengthen us in the faith. Remove every remnant of idolatry and superstition from our hearts, that being enlightened by your gospel we may grow to a firm knowledge of your Word and be worthy temples of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **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*

## Closing Hymn

**All Depends on Our Possessing CW<sup>21</sup> 807 sts. 1–2, 6**



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant  
2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y  
6 If my days on earth he length - en, he my wea - ry



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.  
joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.  
soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are  
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly  
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.  
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.  
way is glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758  
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*Prayer of the Church*

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