

SERVE GOD WITH MONEY;  
YOU CAN'T SERVE GOD AND MONEY



September 18, 2022



**CHRIST** Lutheran Church

*"Our hope in Jesus is an anchor for the soul."* Hebrews 6:19

500 Park Street | West Salem, WI 54669 | 608-786-1250

**Pastors** Don Frelitz

**Organist** Sunday: Amy Cook

Monday: Amy Cook

**Usher Teams** Sunday 8AM: Team A ■ Sunday 10:30AM: Team M ■ Monday 6:30PM: Miller

# Mission Statement

With the help of the Triune God, our mission is to gladly nurture the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation, to train our children in the knowledge of the Lord, to reach out to others with the saving message of Jesus' love and forgiveness.

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

## **Series Theme: HARD TRUTH**

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. If you expect Jesus to use these final teaching opportunities to share happy thoughts, you don't know him well. With a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we do not want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he challenges conventional wisdom. He reverses the normal and natural order of things. This should not surprise us, considering this Teacher's life and work are the opposite of what one would expect. When the truth is hard to hear, the first temptation is to deny it. We cannot do that with Jesus' teaching, for he never lies. When the truth is hard to hear, the second temptation is to simply ignore it. To do that with Jesus is to court eternal death. Thus, Jesus' words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For his Word, though it contains hard truth, gives eternal life.

## **Theme of the Day: SERVE GOD WITH MONEY; YOU CAN'T SERVE GOD AND MONEY**

There are more than 2300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. And that evil foe knows how successful his efforts with money can be. Money provides us with a false comfort and a sense of security. It serves as a source of pride. It serves as a wonderful tool for a favorite pastime: justifying ourselves in our own eyes and the eyes of others. Jesus knows that serving money makes it impossible to serve God. The human heart is not big enough for both. As a result, Jesus does all he can to expose the futility of serving money. He also helps us see that the only one truly worth serving is our gracious, loving God. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of money being a lord to serve, it becomes a resource for serving the Lord. This is the hard truth. There is no way for us to serve both God and money. But we can serve God with our money.

# THE SERVICE (SETTING ONE)

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**OPENING HYMN**      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*..... 708

**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

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## THE WORD



### FIRST LESSON

*Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

<sup>10</sup>Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor. <sup>11</sup>When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes? <sup>12</sup>The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep. <sup>13</sup>I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, <sup>14</sup>or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. <sup>15</sup>As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup>This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? <sup>17</sup>Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger. <sup>18</sup>So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. <sup>19</sup>Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, <sup>20</sup>for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON*****1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19***

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied. <sup>9</sup>Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction and utter ruin. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. <sup>17</sup>Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*****God's Word*****p. 161**

*(Refrain sung by congregation. Verse sung by Pastor)*



<sup>1</sup>Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>The rich man called him in and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.’ <sup>3</sup>“The manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’ <sup>5</sup>“He called each one of his master’s debtors to him. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He said, ‘Six hundred gallons of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘Six hundred bushels of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light. <sup>9</sup>I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous *mammon* so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. <sup>10</sup>The person who is faithful with very little is also faithful with much. And the person who is unrighteous with very little is also unrighteous with much. <sup>11</sup>So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous *mammon* who will entrust you with what is really valuable? <sup>12</sup>If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters. Indeed, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and *mammon*.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*All Depends on Our Possessing* ..... 807



**Children’s Message**

*Children; we invite you to come up during the 3rd verse of the hymn to hear a message just for you. We will finish the hymn after the children’s sermon.*

**SERMON:** Luke 16:1-13

## **Money Management Matters**

### **Sermon Study Guide**

*Contemplate these questions during the sermon and feel free to write your thoughts in the blank spaces.*

- 1. The manager in the parable, when he knows he is going to be removed from his position, begins forgiving debts owed to his master. What was his purpose in doing this?**
- 2. Essentially, the manager was taking money away from his master. Why, then, does his master commend him?**
- 3. God has given us gifts of wealth on earth. What does he intend us to do with those gifts? How does he want us to act when using our gifts of wealth in life?**
- 4. Our true wealth is not found in our possessions. It is the promise of forgiveness and life. Evaluate this statement: the pursuit of earthly wealth can often make us poor.**

<b>APOSTLES CREED</b>	<i>pg. 162</i>
<b>PRAYER OF THE CHURCH</b>	<i>pg. 164</i>
<b>OFFERING</b>	
<b>HYMN</b>	<i>If God Himself Be for Me.....819 v.1-3, 5</i>
<b>PRAYER OF THANKS AND BENEDICTION</b>	<i>pg. 171</i>
<b>CLOSING HYMN</b>	<i>Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters..... 678</i>