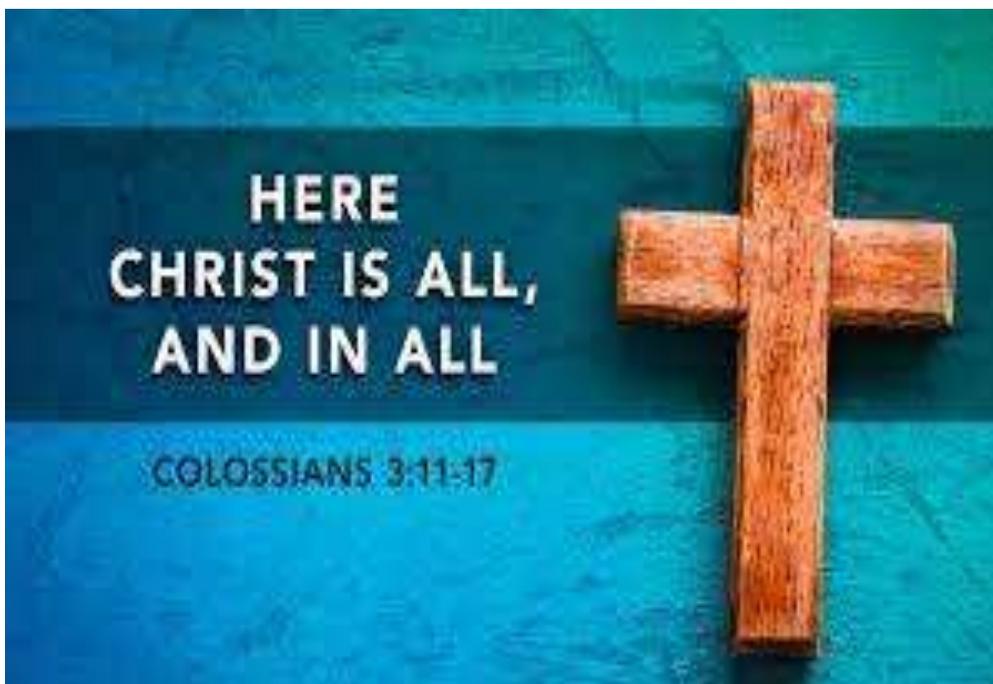


Triune Lutheran Church

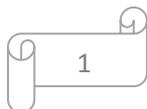


Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



We thank you for joining us here at Triune Lutheran Church, a family united with you through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about our worship here. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!



- You are invited to speak the **bold print**, as well as sing along with the psalm and hymns, which you will find in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal in front of you in the pews.
- The portions marked with * are times when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- There will not be a separate time for an offering to be collected during worship. If you wish to do so today, you may place your offering in the offering plate at the back.
- The Communion elements are placed in the hallway/narthex just outside the entrance doors to the sanctuary. We ask you bring them to your seat and leave them until we reach the celebration of holy Communion during worship, when you will be asked to remove the lids and consume the bread (wafer), then the wine. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the pastor know before worship. We believe the body and blood of Christ is meant for everyone, regardless of your church affiliation, and so feel free to participate, if you feel so moved.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available in the pew to learn more about us.
- Bathrooms are available in the hallway.

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may make the sign of the cross as a reminder that nothing, not even sin, can separate you from God's love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have not always followed a path
of steadfast love**

but have often 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 frequently passed by on the other side.

Help us to see the path of new life and hope.

Save us from ourselves,

and free us to love our neighbors with joy.

Amen!

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

“God is Here!”

ELW 526

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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!

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18:23

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

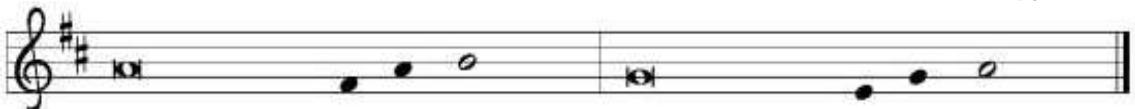
¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in
Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by
wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy
business that God has given to human beings to be busy
with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and
see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

2:18 I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹— and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Word of God, word of life!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 49:1-12



- ¹Hear this, | all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
²**you of high de- | gree and low,
rich and | poor together.**
³My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear | to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds
me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust
in | their own prowess,
and boast of | their great riches?**

⁷One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life | is so great
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and
stu- | pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come | after
them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling
places from generation to | generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

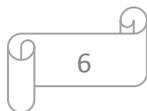
¹²**Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-11

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that
are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that
are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with
Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then
you also will be revealed with him in glory.



⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life!
Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

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.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

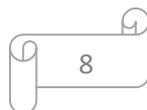
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW 789



***APOSTLES' 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us pray to the Holy One who is near to us always.

A brief silence.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division anywhere 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 entire 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, including David Schmidt, 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, including Niki Grigsby, Jan Halishak, Charlotte Jackson, Richard Jakubcin, Dan & Jill Maldovan, Rachel Abbs O'Malley, Gloria Roderick, Dennis Schatt, Annie Slaughter, Stacy Szendel, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts now...Renew us all 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 our church council and visioning task force, giving 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 Risen Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, continue to come upon us and upon this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

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.**

COMMUNION

MUSIC INTERLUDE

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may know your never-ending love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.
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!

***SENDING HYMN**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourselves!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: **All People**
Presiding Minister: **Pastor Harry Werner**
Worship Assistant: **Heidi Bailey**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Lectionary Blog: Open Hands toward God and Neighbor

Last week we talked about how God’s forgiveness was tied to the disciples’ willingness to generously forego repayment by those who were in debt to them (Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer). In this week’s readings, Jesus reiterates his insistence that generosity toward others is absolutely essential for those who would follow him.

Jesus tells his well-known parable about the rich man’s barns as a warning about greed. Two brothers were fighting over an inheritance from their deceased father, a disagreement in which Jesus absolutely had no interest in participating (Luke 12:14). Instead, he warned about the dangers of greed, which in this case had caused fighting instead of the brothers consoling each other over a mutual loss. Jesus told them the story of a rich man whose land was blessed and had apparently yielded a greater harvest than in previous years. The man planned to pull down his barns and build new ones so that he could relax and not work for several years. But that night God told him he would die and all the wealth he had stored up would go to someone else. Jesus ended his parable by saying that this is the situation of all who hoard wealth and are not rich toward God (by being rich toward their neighbors).

But giving away what we have earned isn’t always easy. The teacher in Ecclesiastes laments that the fruit of his wise labor will go to someone else after him. Who knows whether that person will spend it wisely or foolishly (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23)? The gruff teacher may not like it, but God doesn’t leave it up to him to decide who is worthy of his goods or not. Indeed, we read in Colossians that greed, the desire to withhold wealth for

oneself, is idolatry (3:5). God's community can have no greed in it but must instead be characterized by having open hands toward those in need. What might that look like?

The Torah envisions a robust system of provision for the landless poor based on a seven-year cycle. Each year those with land were to give the very first fruits of their crops (and various other small sacrifices) to the priests (Leviticus 23:10). They were also to give one-tenth of their produce to the Levites (Numbers 18:21-24). The Levites were barred from accumulating land wealth, so God's people were instructed to provide for them. On top of that tithe, the Israelites were to set aside another tenth of their income from the land to celebrate at the festivals in Jerusalem. They were to use the money to feed their entire household whatever they wanted and to include the landless Levites in the celebrations (Deuteronomy 14:22-27).

Every third and sixth year, the second tithe was replaced by a third tithe that was set aside for the poor, foreigners, widows, orphans and, again, the Levites (Deuteronomy 14:28-29) who lived close to the landowners. And every seventh year, all Israelite debts were to be completely canceled (Deuteronomy 15:1-2).

A 20% yearly tax going directly to the landless poor or toward celebrating holidays with them may sound like a lot. Forgiving all debts every seventh year may sound impossible. But God insisted that the Israelites open their hands and let go of what they thought belonged to them (Deuteronomy 15:7-11).

If intentional wealth redistribution and regular debt forgiveness was God's vision for Israel, what was the practice of the early church? Acts reports that Jesus' earliest followers held everything in common and didn't regard anything as their own (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37). As organizational consultant Marie Kondo will tell you, this openness with possessions and the ability to let things go brings a tremendous sense of freedom and joy. This generosity in the early church didn't need to be compelled by law but was freely undertaken because of great unity. Sadly, both the generous unity and redistributive laws seem to have fallen by the wayside for many Christians. But Jesus commends us to be rich toward God and openhanded with everything that the world says belongs to us.

This week, I'd like to challenge you to think of some folks around you who are either landless or unable to support themselves, for whatever reason. How can your hands be open to them? If you are interested, the ELCA's Service and Justice Update for 2022 has many ideas of how you can be rich toward God and neighbor. - Cory Driver

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Based on Luke 12:13-21



C T G O O D T G R O U N D Z A
O Y Y Z R D R I N K I Z Z P L
T D N A G H I W U X A E O R I
W O U T A F I E L Y G P I L F
W G G N T M Y S J D I R S E E
F F R E E A T E U S V N D A Y
V F I K U K L J B S R I D E S
Q O C M E R R Y D A V E I G T
V O H S Z D T W B I E S N Z Q
H L R T J A O U D R T I Q H R
P G F F S R I N G O H C C E C
G L R K C T K R H T P T G U B
T I C A W H O D Q O A G Q F A
G I X Y I X O R R W I V M M H
L K T T J N X C E B R S Q V W

JUDGE
STORE
RICH
GOOD

CROWD
EAT
FOOL
CROP

THINGS
BIGGER
DIVIDE
WATCH

BARN
LIFE
GROUND
GRAIN

GUARD
GREED
DRINK
MERRY