

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 28, 2025



AS WE GATHER

Profit without the Pitfalls

Though it sounds like a contradiction, the “poor rich man” in today’s parable of Jesus apparently never really heard or just ignored the dire warning of God’s prophets like Amos against trusting in earthly gain and riches to the exclusion of trusting faith in the merciful promises of God. The temptation of earthly wealth infects all people throughout history to this day, regardless of outward circumstances, rich and poor alike. Paul sums up the challenge for faith as he contrasts the “great gain” (or profit) of godly faithfulness and the temptations (or pitfalls) of temporary riches. We all know the sentence of Paul, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10), which is so often misquoted as only “money is the root of all evil.” Money is not the problem. There’s no sin in possessing earthly riches. The deeper question is what or who is the object of our love and trust. The Christian’s true riches are in Christ Jesus, namely, the new life we have been given through our baptismal faith. It is the life we can take with us through and beyond the grave and gate of death. “Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live” (Psalm 146:1–2), which will be forever!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #802

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 146:3, 5*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Put not your trust in princes, in whom there is no salvation.

People: **Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 125:1*

Pastor: The First Commandment is first because “we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” Let us in true repentance and good faith direct the fear, love, and trust of our hearts and minds “to the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God.”

People: **Merciful God, the good fight of faith is fierce, the warfare between our love for You and the temptations of the world around us is long, even never-ending. We confess we have not loved You above all things, we are afraid at many times, and there is nothing and no one on earth worthy of our trust. In You, O Lord, we put our trust. In Your grace and forgiveness, let us never be ashamed. Deliver us in Your righteousness for the sake of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son.**

Pastor: "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." By your Baptism into Christ, God has pledged the forgiveness of all your sins and promised the eternal life to which you were called. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM OF THE DAY *hymnal page 219*

Pastor: O Lord, open Thou my lips,

People: **♪ And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.**

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

People: **♪ make haste to help me, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the
Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!**

ANTIPHON

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

People: **♪ For He is our maker.**

VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

**♪ O come, let us sing unto the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.**

**For the LORD is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, and He made it,
and His hands form-ed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and
without Your aid we can do no good thing. Grant us the
help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and
deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 6:1-7 (*Woe to those at ease in Zion.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (*True contentment of faith.*)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Luke 16:31*

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.**

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31 (*The rich man and Lazarus.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 16th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" #708

SERMON Pr. Mark Croucher

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781 v1-2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,
May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray.
We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting. Grant to Your whole church throughout the world the strength and peace of unity in the faith and proclamation of Your pure Word, that all people may know Your true glory of salvation from sin and the gift of redemption and eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: To You all angels cry aloud, the glorious company of the apostles praise You, the goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You, and the noble army of martyrs praise You. We pray You include us as those who acknowledge You now by faith that we may be received into their fellowship not by our merits but solely because of Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You are the King of glory, O Christ, the everlasting Son of the Father. By Your death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant Your saving Gospel to be proclaimed throughout the world to the salvation of many. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Each day of our lives, O God, keep us mindful of the riches of Your grace that we may know the contentment of Your heavenly treasures and not be distracted by temptations of worldly wealth. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, we pray for all who are in any need, for those who need the grace of Your help and healing, those who are in trouble, those who doubt Your kindness, those who fear death, and all who are sick or injured, especially those who have requested our prayers. [*Pause for silent prayer.*] Be their help, healing, and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Make us to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: ♪ Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: ♪ Amen.

HYMN "Fight the Good Fight" #664

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER
September 28, 2025

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Pr. Mark Croucher
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, October 5th is "**Every Age Has a Stage**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola Every age has a stage, not just a stage of life, but also a stage on which to perform and to serve. (Numbers 8:23-26) Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.