

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost- September 28, 2025 Traditional

Profit without the Pitfalls

As We Gather

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!

Camp Luther Presentation “Director of Ministry Engagement”

802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible,
 God only wise,
 In light inaccessible
 hid from our eyes,
 Most blessèd, most glorious,
 the Ancient of Days,
 Almighty, victorious,
 Thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting,
 and silent as light,
 Nor wanting, nor wasting,
 Thou rulest in might;
 Thy justice like mountains
 high soaring above
 Thy clouds which are fountains
 of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life Thou givest—
 to both great and small—
 In all life Thou livest,
 the true Life of all;

We blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish—
but naught changes Thee.

- 4 Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee,
all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render:
O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor
of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 125:1

- P** 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.”
- C** **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.**
- P** “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.
- C** Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Amos 6:1–7

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
²Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory,
³O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?
⁴“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,
⁶who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Timothy 6:6–19

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in

unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 16:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

- 4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—
 'Tis a delightful road—
 Nor let my head or heart or hands
 Offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Leon Rosenthal

956 Create in Me

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence;
 and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
 and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Text: Public domain

Offering

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

sts. 1, 6

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
 Whate'er the gift may be;
 All that we have is Thine alone,
 A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be:
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97
Text: Public domain

Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Him, Your majesty is praised by all the holy angels and celebrated with one accord by the heavens and all the powers therein. The cherubim and seraphim sing

Your praise, and with them we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.

- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
 King of love and Prince of Peace;
 Hush the storm of strife and passion,
 Bid its cruel discords cease.
 By Your patient years of toiling,
 By Your silent hours of pain,
 Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
 Stem our selfish greed of gain.
- 4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
 Source of life and truth and grace,
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us
 Hallows all our human race:
 By Your praying, by Your willing
 That Your people should be one,
 Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
 Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.
Text: Public domain

503 O Day Full of Grace

- 1 O day full of grace that now we see
 Appearing on earth's horizon,
 Bring light from our God that we may be
 Replete in His joy this season.
 God, shine for us now in this dark place;
 Your name on our hearts emblazon.
- 2 O day full of grace, O blessed time,
 Our Lord on the earth arriving;
 Then came to the world that light sublime,
 Great joy for us all retrieving;
 For Jesus all mortals did embrace,
 All darkness and shame removing.
- 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not His own,
 When He on the cross was hanging;
 And then He arose and moved the stone
 That we, unto Him belonging,
 Might join with angelic hosts to raise
 Our voices in endless singing.
- 4 God came to us then at Pentecost,
 His Spirit new life revealing,

That we might no more from Him be lost,
All darkness for us dispelling.
His flame will the mark of sin efface
And bring to us all His healing.

- 5 When we on that final journey go
That Christ is for us preparing,
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
All joy of the heavens sharing,
And walk in the light of God's own place,
With angels His name adoring.

Text: Scandinavian, c. 1450; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P 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.

C Amen.

664 Fight the Good Fight

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.
- 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.

4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt.

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