

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost
“God is pleased to give you fearless living in His Kingdom!”
Luke 12:29-32
August 10, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 9th Sunday after Pentecost is from
Luke 12:29-32

“29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

So far the text:

What do you seek after? Or in other words, what do you set your heart on? It’s a very simple question, but the answer to this question easily reveals where your heart is. For Jesus simply lays out inevitable truth for all people to ponder, for each of us this day to ponder – **“34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

Only one treasure can occupy the heart. Today, again, each of us is asked by our Lord to examine our heart, our “kardia” which is the word in Greek. And as we examine our hearts under the light of God’s Word, we will quickly see whether the cardiac condition of our hearts. Is it beating strong with God’s kingdom gifts of faith, forgiveness, salvation, peace, and love. Or is our heart got some blockages from worldly influences and is, in fact, nearing cardiac arrest?

Yes, you each of us gets to look into our hearts today, recognize the symptoms of a weak heart and receive a strengthening of our hearts through God’s Word and Sacraments. Our prayer is simply what we will sing in our offertory from Psalm 51:

*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.*

In short, get my spiritual heart strongly beating to the rhythm of the Holy Spirit's leading with His gifts of His presence occupying my heart – with the joy of His salvation restoring and upholding me!

So, what are the symptoms of a weak spiritual heart? Jesus is quick to point them out. "I say to you", Jesus begins for He speaks with divine authority and we must listen and pay attention.

“do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.”

Worry is a symptom of a weak spiritual heart. Do you worry about your life? In whatever stage of life you're in, there is always the temptation to worry. If you're going back to school, are you worrying about whether the new grade level is going to be real hard? If it's a new school are you going to like it? Are you going to forget something for your first day of school? Are you going to be able to find your classroom if you're changing classes? What new people are going to be in your class? Who are you going to sit next to? Are you anxious? Cast all your cares upon God, for He cares for you!

How about a new job? Are you going to work well with your coworkers, your boss? Are you going to get bored with your job or are you going to like it? Are you going to say something or do something that others may not appreciate?

What about worries about one's physical health, worries about other family members, finances, the weather, the government, one's safety etc. etc.? Worries give way to fear, another symptom of a weak spiritual heart.

Whenever we worry, Jesus simply says "stop". Do not worry about your life! Do not fear. Live a fearless life for God knows what you need, and He will give it to you...even without our asking! Yes, He gives us our daily bread even without our asking. Daily bread includes everything that we need for this body and life.

As Luther says:

“God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.”

Worrying and giving thanksgiving are at odds with each other. For a thankful heart for all that God gives us humbly acknowledges that He won't ever fail us. His mercy endures forever. That's why Jesus calls it our "daily bread", because we depend on Him daily.

The nations of this world, the people of this world, cosmic people, literally in the Greek, pagan people – not so. Their heart is set on the accumulation of these things that the Father knows we need. The cosmic people do not trust in God but in themselves to acquire, store up and to find happiness in the temporal things of this world. The result is always that there is much worrying and fear that what one has is never enough.

And that is because, the temporal things that an unbeliever sets one's heart on is never enough. There is only fear that what one has will not last. And, of course, it won't.

Jesus gives the illustration of the lilies of the field. As beautiful as they are with all their natural beauty, unrivaled by any acquired or manufactured beauty that even someone like Solomon arrayed himself in, it is fleeting. A flower fades, withers and is thrown onto the compost heap.

Yes, there is a natural beauty of this world created by God, which even a non-Christian adores and seeks after. Destination weddings are popular with picturesque backdrops of the sea or the beauty of a mountain or a waterfall. But the true beauty of a wedding is not what a bride or groom is arrayed in or the scenery of the spot, but the promises of God for the hearts of the bride and groom that God loves them in Jesus Christ and gives them His Kingdom of grace to comfort them all the days of their life.

Natural beauty is fleeting but the spiritual beauty of our Savior Jesus is forever. The Rose Bowl parade is admired by many for the 18 million roses that are imported and used on the floats. Everything has to be natural. Each float costs on the average of \$275,000. And yet when the parade finishes, the flowers fade and are put onto the compost heap.

The beauty of God's Kingdom of grace is the forever beauty that God wants all people to set their hearts upon. And the beauty of God's Kingdom of grace is that God gives His Kingdom to you without cost.

God's Kingdom of mercy cannot be acquired by our efforts. In fact, it cannot be seen. But it is freely given by God by hearing His truths of salvation in Jesus and the Holy Spirit gives faith to believe in this truth.

“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

As our epistle from Hebrews 12 tells us. It is the evidence of Christ’s coming to our sinful world, our cosmos and dying on the cross, and rising again to give us the greatest treasure that cannot ever fail – our eternal salvation.

So David says in Psalm 51:

**“Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.”**

As we hear in the parallel reading of our Gospel in Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

His kingdom of grace is His righteousness which is our spiritual clothing given to us in our baptism. God gives to us the most treasured of gifts, Christ’s righteousness, which covers all our guilt, all our worries from our sins, and all our fears in this life.

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

It’s God’s good pleasure to give you His kingdom over and over again. The Father loves to give you His forgiveness for your soul in His Word and in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The very body and blood of Jesus are given for you in with and under the bread and wine to take away all worries and doubts of your soul. You are forgiven and part of God’s little flock!

Yes, it is little because the many nations of this world run after earthly treasures that which don’t satisfy. The flock is “little” because in great love God uses the diminutive description of His flock that He cares for so much!

God’s little flock included people like Abraham and Sarah. They trusted in God’s promise that even though they were old, and had no children, their descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky.

**“Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.”
And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed in the Lord,
and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”**

God’s kingdom of righteousness came to him, Christ’s righteousness was given to him through faith, for one of His descendants would be the Christ, the Seed of Abraham. Abraham and Sarah’s doubts and sins weren’t counted against them. No, Jesus’ righteousness was counted instead. And so it is for every believer in Christ.

Our epistle tells us of Noah.

“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Though the flood was not seen, Noah believed and steadfastly labored on building the ark for 120 years. The nations of the world, the cosmic people, who had rejected God and had set their heart on the things of this world, became the condemned of the world...eternally condemned in hell. Noah... was made an heir of righteousness according to his faith.

So, once again, God tells us to examine our spiritual hearts and repent of any worries, doubts or fears because of setting our hearts on earthly treasures. Seek His kingdom of grace, the true treasure of Christ’s righteousness and you have as an heir the kingdom that lasts forever and will one day be realized fully in God’s kingdom of glory. Until then, God will make sure that you have all the things you need for this life, for you are much more valuable to Him than the ravens or the lilies of the field and look how God cares for them.

As Luther said, the little birds our preachers who speak to us of God's goodness, grace and mercy. We often observe them busily and cheerfully looking for food. But they never worry. And neither should we, beloved little flock of God! Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)