# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**September 28, 2025** 



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ.

# THEME:BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

<sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:

<sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.

And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)

## SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

(Based on Lutheran Service Book page 260)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

**A REMINDER:** Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

# AS WE GATHER

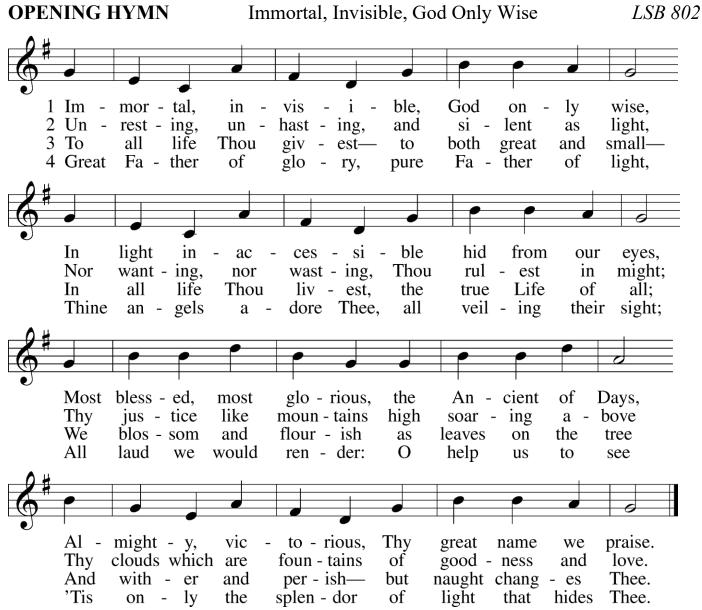
Though it sounds like a contradiction, the "poor rich man" in today's parable of Jesus apparently never really heard or just ignored the dire warning of God's prophets like Amos against trusting in earthly gain and riches to the exclusion of trusting faith in the merciful promises of God. The temptation 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!

# **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

## WELCOME

# The TOLLING OF THE BELLS





Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

Tune: Welsh

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION & OPENING VERSICLES

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

This is the day which the Lord has made; Psalm 118:24

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prom the rising of the sun to its setting, Psalm 113:3

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; Psalm 84:10

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Palm 25:4

**C** Teach me Your paths.

P Sanctify us in Your truth. John 17:17

**C** Your Word is truth.

Prom the rising of the sun to its setting, Psalm 113:3

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

# CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in the Small Catechism informs and directs us with these words, which summarizes it well.
- Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- P Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

(Silence for personal confession of sins)

- **P** Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. Daily our sins of thought, word, and deed cause us grief. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For

the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

- P Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **CATECHISM REVIEW**

- P Today we review the Seventh commandment.
- **P** You shall not steal. What does this mean?
- We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.
- **P** Why are earthly goods such as money and possessions important?
- They are the gifts by which God provides for our own and our neighbor's needs and the enjoyment of life.

**Psalm 104:14–15** You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart.

- P How do we fear and love God in keeping the Seventh Commandment?
- We fear and love God by not taking God's earthly gifts from our neighbor in such ways as stealing our neighbor's possessions and money; being lazy or sloppy when working as employees;

**Ephesians 4:28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

**P** acquiring goods by dishonesty, fraud, or taking advantage of others.

**Psalm 37:21** The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives.

- **P** What else is considered to be our neighbor's possessions or property today?
- Our neighbor's property may include intellectual property such as ideas and writings (which can be stolen by copyright violation, patent infringement, or plagiarism) and also music, software, movies, and personal information (which might be stolen by online piracy, computer hacking, or identity theft).
- P How does God provide us and others with our earthly goods?
- He provides for us through the bounty of the earth (air, water, soil, food, minerals, and so on); the vocation of parents, family, and neighbors; and our jobs and careers.
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
- **P** How shall we use our own earthly goods?
- We are to be good stewards of God's created gifts so that our family is provided with shelter, food, education, health care, and the like;
  - 1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- P So that others (especially the poor) benefit from our grateful and charitable use of what God has given us at home, in church, as neighbors, and as citizens;
  - **Hebrews 13:16** Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
- So that the church has the resources it needs for the proclamation of the Gospel;
  - 1 Corinthians 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.
- P So that all creation prospers under our care for the land, water, and air.
  - Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

# **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Amos 6:1–7* 

(Many in Israel made pampering themselves a full-time occupation, smugly imagining that material wealth was clear-cut proof that they were right with God. People today make the same mistake, interpreting their material prosperity as a sign that they need not humble themselves and turn away from complacency. However, God desires to give Himself to us. This is why His Son became incarnate for us and for our salvation.)

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

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,



and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup>who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,

- and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away."
- **C** Thanks be to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**EPISTLE** 1 Timothy 6:6–19

(Rather than being content with what we have, we by nature covet the things we do not have. Those who covet often see money as a wonderful solution to all of life's problems. But those who love money are in grave danger; they risk losing their faith in Christ. Our Savior has blessed us with the riches of His priceless salvation. Nothing can separate us from His love. As He tenderly cares for us through His Word of promise, we are able to enjoy lives of

godliness with contentment. All that we can take with us when we leave this world is the life and immortality that Jesus has given us through faith—and that is more than enough!)

<sup>6</sup>Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>For 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.

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight 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. <sup>13</sup>I 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, <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who 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.



Pursue righteousness, godliness, FAITH, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

<sup>17</sup>As 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. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30)

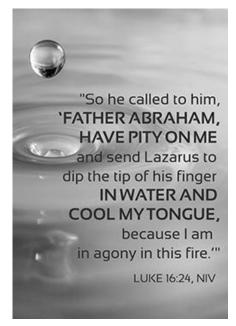
(Children, and parents of little ones, are invited forward to the chancel area.)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 16:19–31

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup>and in Hades, being

in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup>And 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.' <sup>25</sup>But 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. <sup>26</sup>And 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.' <sup>27</sup>And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup>And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if



someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>He 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.

# RESPONSORY

- **P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- **C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the 

  → Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.



Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671-1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, 1694, Dresden, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **SERMON**

Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk

#### **OFFERING**

<u>For those worshiping online</u>, please visit <u>www.lccross.org</u> to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <a href="https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6">https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6</a>



<u>For those worshiping in-person</u>, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.



Text: Martin Schalling, 1532-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur, 1577, Strassburg

Text and tune: Public domain

# **PRAYER**

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

  Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** Hear us especially for . . .

let us pray to the Lord:

- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



Text: Carlos Rosas, 1939-2020; tr. Daniel Zager, 1951

Tune: Carlos Rosas, 1939–2020

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#### MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

BENEDICAMUS LSB 267

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# **BENEDICTION**

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.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

# Fight the Good Fight

LSB 664

- 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.

Text: Public domain

# SILENT PRAYER & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **POSTLUDE**



# We are a STEPHEN MINISTER church!

#### **Acknowledgments**

Scripture commentary from Engelbrecht, Edward A. The Lutheran Study Bible. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009. Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Quotations from Martin Luther. (2017). Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service is obtained from One License with license #A-731332.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk

Organist: Stephen Kopp III

Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk ~ Trumpet: Luke Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering

Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

September 28, 2025

Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by Diane Barton in memory of her mother, Vivian Barton.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by Robert Trapp in remembrance of Carol Anne Trapp.

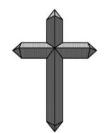
# **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Bell Tollers Judy Daily, Barb Powell
Elders on Duty Mark Keck, Chris Trapp
Lay Readers Gloria Cvelbar, Judy Daily

Usher/Greeters Dorothy Christman, Gary Fleming

Altar Servers Cathy McCabe, Lori Nelson Safety Team David Aiken, Mark Keck

Streaming Team Gloria Cvelbar, Kay Helgerson, Wayn Nelson, Marita Noe



#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES:**

7:30AM & 10:30AM

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm (941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467 By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

**IF YOU HAVE** any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Parish Administrator Jennifer Strefling: 941-627-6060 Head Elder Jim McCabe: 847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach <u>Pastor Stolarczyk:</u> <u>Cell: 941-979-7490</u>

<u>Pastor Menk:</u> <u>Cell: 941-327-9453</u>

# LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT & WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025

Week Of: 09/21/2025		
On-Site	Weekly Contributions	
Attendance		
42/88	Income:	\$8,800
	Expense:	\$ 11,170

# PARISH ADMINISTRATOR EXTENDED VACATION

Please be advised that Jennifer, our Parish Administrator, will be on a leave of absence for the entire month of September. During this time, she will not be available for work items via text, voicemail, or email.

You can always text her to just say hello!

If you have any urgent matters that need attention, please reach out Bill Heffernan 630-240-0075.

She will resume her office duties on Monday, October 6th.

Thank you for your understanding.

# SEPTEMBER WILL BE LCC PRAYER SHAWL MONTH!

Prayer shawls are symbolic of God's grace, peace, inclusive and unconditional love. Touching a prayer shawl gives comfort and the assurance that God is near. It is a reminder that we are NEVER alone. the Prayer Shawl Ministry will have a display in the church narthex all through the month of September. The small pocket/purse prayer shawls are also now available in both the church narthex and the FMC on the glass prayer shawl display case.

Prayer shawls are always available upon request by contacting Joyce Spier or the church office.



#### **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:**

Mon-Sept 29 Men's Bible Study @ 11:30am (FMC)
Tues-Sept 30 Confirmation @ 6:30pm (Pastor's Study)
Wed-Oct 1 Church Council Workshop @ 6pm (OFH)

**Thurs-Oct 2** Altar Communion Set Up @ 9:00am (Sacristy/Sanctuary)

Bible Class: The Chosen Season 5 @ 10:00am (FMC)

LWML Parish Guild Meeting @ 1:00pm (FMC)

Handbell Rehearsal @ 4:30pm (Sanctuary)