



Sunday, July 30, 2023
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme
THE CHRISTIAN SEEKS SPIRITUAL WEALTH

What do you consider your life's priorities? If you made a list, what would be near the top? Faith, family, and friends would probably head the lists of many. Financial security and health would be right up there. Reputation and recreation would likely make the cut. But perhaps a more interesting question than "What do you consider your life's priorities?" is "Which of the items on that list would you be willing to sacrifice to save your top priority?" What if you had to give up the whole list—family, friends, finances, health, reputation, recreation—to save just one priority: faith? This week we are given an honest assessment of what really matters in life. The kingdom is worth everything. Worldly wealth can buy the things of this world, the type of things that rust and decay, things that will not last. True wealth is spiritual wealth. It can be found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ. The Christian seeks first spiritual wealth and will sacrifice anything to obtain it.



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove;
 2 Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love,
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py, space.
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 In you do we trust nor find you to fail.



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 Our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Order of Service

Service of Word and Sacrament (p.26)

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

- C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** *(sing)* Lord, have mercy.
- M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C:** *(sing)* Christ, have mercy.
- M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** *(sing)* Lord, have mercy.
- M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:
- C:** *(sing)* Amen
- M:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.
- C:** *(sing)*
- O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
 Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.
 You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
 you make us pure and holy in your sight.
 You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.
 O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;
 you made your Father known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood.
 You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!
 O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5–12 (EHV)

The Lord offered to give Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon requested the spiritual wealth of a believing heart that could discern right from wrong.

⁵The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night.

God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?"

¹⁰In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon's request was good. ¹¹So God said to him, "Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹²therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

Psalm
119b (p. 110)

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

*

Teach me, O Lord, to follow 'your
decrees;*
then I will keep them 'to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will 'keep
your law*
and obey it with 'all my heart.

Direct me in the path of 'your
commands,*
for there I 'find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from 'worthless
things;*
preserve my life according 'to your
Word.

Fulfill your promise to your 'servant,*
so that you 'may be feared.

How I long for your 'precepts!*
Preserve my life in your
'righteousness.

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the
Son***

and to the Holy 'Spirit,

**as it was in the be'ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:17–21 (EHV)

Paul warns against the two pet sins of those who have worldly wealth: arrogance and false hope.

¹⁷Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge.” ²¹By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:1,2)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:44–52 (EHV)

Through a series of parables Jesus teaches the value of spiritual wealth.

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Did you understand all these things?”

They answered him, “Yes.”

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things.”

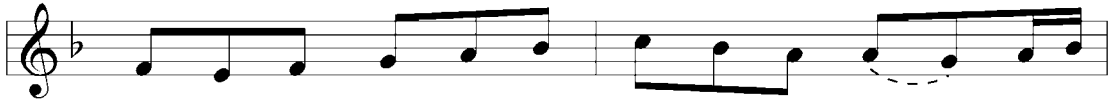
C: Praise be to you, O Christ



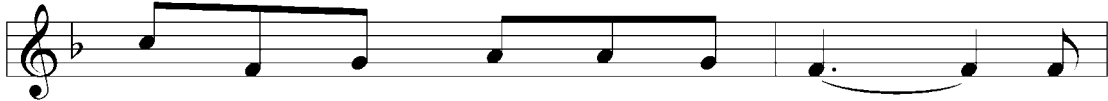
1 Your king-dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure, My
 2 Your king-dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er Your
 3 Your king-dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing Of



pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth. Its
 Word and your Spir - it be - stow. Like
 seeds that your mer - cy has sown, But



val - ue ex - ceeds ev - 'ry stand - ard of mea - sure, Sur -
 yeast, they af - fect the whole mea - sure of flour, En -
 still in our midst is the en - e - my sow - ing The



pass - ing the wealth of the earth. Lord,
 a - bling your king - dom to grow. Em -
 weeds that im - per - il your own. Sus -



give me your grace and the pow'r of the Spir - it To
 pow - er me, Lord, as I live your com - mis - sion, Though
 tain me, O Lord, till your day of re - turn - ing And



val - ue this trea - sure a - right That,
 hum - ble my ser - vice may be, And
 har - vest me home - ward at last, To



nev - er al - lured by the world, I in - her - it Your
 bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru - i - tion, A
 shine in the home - land that qui - ets all yearn - ing, Where



king - dom of glo - ry and light.
 mus - tard seed grown to a tree.
 sor - row and dan - ger are past.

Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 13:44-52 - The Kingdom of Heaven...

- 1) Is a hidden treasure.
- 2) Is the end of your search.
- 3) Catches all kinds but only keeps the good.
- 4) Offers old and new blessings to address your needs.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: (sing) And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sing) We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sing) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: *(sing)* **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: *(sing)*
**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

THANK THE LORD

C: *(sing)*
**Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of
thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (*sing*) Amen. Amen. Amen.

443 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing; A
2 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
3 Did not his love and truth and pow'r Guard
4 He al - ways will with pa - tience chide; His
5 His wis - dom nev - er plans in vain Nor



cheer - ful trust main - tain, For God, the source of
rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor
ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did he not in
rod falls gent - ly down, And all your sins he
fal - ters nor mis - takes; All that his coun - sels



ev - 'ry - thing, Your trea - sure shall re - main.
cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
threat - ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?
casts a - side In o - cean depths to drown.
did or - dain A hap - py end - ing makes.

6 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust his guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.

Announcements

Church Cleaners:
August 6 – Phillip // August 13 – John

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (30)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Worship with Holy Communion in Poltimore
Th (3)	10:30 am	Longfield Manor Devotion
Su (6)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Worship with Holy Communion in Poltimore
Su (13)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Pastor Justin Digman's Installation (Orleans)



Divine Word

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