



Twenty-first Sunday  
After Pentecost  
October 17, 2021

**“You cannot serve both God and money.”**

**Jesus Christ  
Matthew 6: 24**



## **What is Money's Proper Place in My Life?**

Bethel Lutheran exists to serve all people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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**HYMN****737****God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It**

1 God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth's treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!

2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.  
Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

3 Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

4 Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

5 There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!  
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.  
Though my flesh awaits its raising,  
Still my soul continues praising:  
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

**INVOCATION**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: (spoken) Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

**P:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

**P:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** (spoken) **Amen.**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

**P:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

### **Song of Praise**

All glory be to God on high! Your name, O Lord, we glorify;  
We praise you for your peace and grace, Your favor toward our fallen race.

Our grateful thanks to you we bring, For your great glory, heav'nly King,  
For all, O Father, you have done Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.

O Lamb of God, to you we pray. You take all human sin away.  
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer; From God's right hand, your mercy share.

You, Christ, are holy-Lord alone; The Father's glory you made known.  
We by your Spirit sing again: "All glory be to God!" Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Lesson      Amos 5: 1-2, 7-15

Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:

2 “Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up.”

7 There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion,

who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night,

who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land—the

Lord is his name. 9 With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin.

10 There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court

and detest the one who tells the truth. 11 You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. 12 For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. 13 Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.

14 Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is.

15 Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

## Second Lesson      Hebrews 13: 1-6

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” 6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

## Verse of the Day

Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. Alleluia.

## Gospel Lesson                      Mark 10: 17-27

**C: (spoken) Glory be to you, O Lord!**

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: (spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn                      755                      Your Kingdom, O God

1 Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,  
My pearl of incomparable worth.

Its value exceeds every standard of measure,  
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.

Lord, give me your grace and the power of the Spirit  
To value this treasure aright

That, never allured by the world, I inherit  
Your kingdom of glory and light.

2 Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power  
Your Word and your Spirit bestow.  
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,  
Enabling your kingdom to grow.  
Empower me, Lord, as I live your commission,  
Though humble my service may be,  
And bring ev'ry planting to perfect fruition,  
A mustard seed grown to a tree.

3 Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing  
Of seeds that your mercy has sown,  
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing  
The weeds that imperil your own.  
Sustain me, O Lord, till your day of returning  
And harvest me homeward at last,  
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,  
Where sorrow and danger are past.

## Sermon

Pastor Jon Cox

### **Matthew 6: 19-21**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **1 Timothy 6:10**

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **2 Corinthians 9:8**

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

## **Is Money a Treasure, a Temptation, or a Godly Gift?**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 Blessing**

**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:** (spoken) **Amen!**