




Salem Lutheran
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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Hard Truth—We serve God with money; we can't serve God AND money

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: There are more than 2300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. Jesus knows that serving money makes it impossible to serve God. The human heart is not big enough for both. This is the hard truth. **There is no way for us to serve both God and money.** But Jesus helps us see that when we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of money being a lord to serve, it becomes a resource for serving the Lord.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Jesus knew that when he went to Jerusalem he was going to die. With a sense of urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we don't want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he reverses the normal order of things. Jesus' words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For through his Word, though it contains hard truths, God gives eternal life.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jake Schram

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Paige Reiners

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Order of Worship



HYMN: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

CW 919



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Response: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 617

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all

creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

King Solomon knew from experience the emptiness of serving money

¹⁰Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.

¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?

¹²The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
¹⁴or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
there is nothing left for them to inherit.
¹⁵Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶This too is a grievous evil:
As everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain,
since they toil for the wind?

¹⁷All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Saint Paul teaches in straightforward language that serving money will lead to spiritual destruction. Serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For 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.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30am) Children's Hymn

CW 708

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise his name, I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love.

- 2 Hitherto thy love has blessed me, thou hast drawn me to this place;
and I know thy hand will lead me safely home by thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

All money belongs to God; he loans it to us to manage for his glory. Through a parable, Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him.

¹Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

³"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

⁶" 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

⁷"Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

" 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

⁸"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you

have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: All Depends on Our Possessing CW 807



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting o - ver tri - fles
4 When with sor - row I am strick - en. hone a - new mv



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.
and in get - ting things that have no sol - id ground.
heart will quick - en: all mv long - ing shall be stilled.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly
I shall strive to win a trea - sure that will bring me
To his lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der soul and bod - v



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
last - ing plea - sure and that now is sel - dom found.
I sur - ren - der, for on God a - lone I build.

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

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

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated.

Offering



 **Connect Card**

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 **Give Online**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Prayer

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: 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: Amen.

Hymn: May the Peace of God

CW 929

1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,

and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,
and this grace which makes us what we are.

and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion

keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

Refrain

And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—
Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection Video

Salem School Update—Principal Ryan Klatt

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship
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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

After worship, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the church entry. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult & Teen Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall.

For Worship Next Week

Theme: Hard Truth—What seems important in life means nothing in eternity;
What matters in eternity seems like nothing in this life.

Bible Readings: Amos 6:1-7; Hebrews 13:1-6; Luke 16:19-31

Hymns: 608, 631, 817, 662, 813

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary or as it's passed during the service.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

