



Give



Serve



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Grow

Stewardship

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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“In Nomine Iesu”

Stewardship Sunday

November 20, 2022

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and to the blessings, comfort, and peace of this congregation. As we gather, we prepare our hearts for the worship and praise of our Lord and Savior by remembering what the Scriptures say: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" *Psalm 122:1* and "One thing have I asked of the Lord...that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple." *Psalm 27:4*. In that joy, let us worship together with prayer and praise.

Stewardship Sunday, what does this mean? "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purpose." (LCMS definition of stewardship)

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul's, please speak to Pastor or one of the ushers before the service.

Prelude "*Lord, You I love with All My Heart*" Paul Manz
Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells

The Order of Service

The Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and the Son (+) and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

The Call To Worship

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord

C **To sing praises to the name of the Most High.**

P He is the almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer.

C **We owe Him all our thanks and praise.**

P He it is who looks upon us

C **with eyes of compassion, love, and forgiveness.**

P Let us rejoice in His goodness and commit ourselves to follow His will, as we pray ...

C **Lord God, Creator and Ruler of all people and all things, be present in the hearts and minds of Your people assembled in this place. Open our eyes and ears to receive the blessings You have prepared for us. Open our mouths to speak to You in confident prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Open our minds to make You, our Creator, more important than the objects You have created for us. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

The Act Of Confession

P My brothers and sisters:

Our God has completely committed Himself to us. The cross and the open tomb are the ultimate signs of this commitment. But far too often our commitment to God ends with words. Our management of our time, talents, and money does not reflect the commitment our words make. So we turn to God today, confessing our sins with the assurance of His forgiveness.

- C** Heavenly Father, we come before You this day with bowed heads and hearts, ashamed because we often fail to demonstrate our commitment. There are other things, modern day idols, that come between us, good Lord. Our time becomes so important that we fail to share it with You freely. As leisure time becomes a god, You are shifted to a lesser priority.
- C** Our talents are truly gifts from above. Yet we use them for ourselves, our family, and our friends, but we hesitate to use them at church. We confess today the lack of talent we use to serve You.
- C** Money is so important in our lives. We even assume that it brings security and happiness to our lives. As a result, we fail to demonstrate that nothing, not even money, comes between us, good Lord. We confess an unhealthy love for money in our lives.
- C** Father, for the sake of Jesus, the Christ, we flee to Your infinite mercy. Do not turn Your face of acceptance and forgiveness from us.

The Declaration of Forgiveness

- P** God has heard our confession. For the sake of Jesus, He does love us and offers forgiveness to all who are willing to start anew, living as God would have us live. Upon this, your confession, I, a servant of the Lord, speak for God. "I forgive you all your sins," says God, the Father, Son, (+) and Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

(be seated)

Commissioning of Sonny Deke as Stephen Leader (10:30)

Choir Anthem *"Simple Thanks"* Nancy Price/Don Besig
 Flute: Cheryl Killham

The Old Testament Lesson: *Ecclesiastes 5:10-20*

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given

him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson:

Romans 12:6-21

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

The Holy Gospel:

Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Confession of Faith

Luther's meaning to the first article of the Apostles' Creed

- P What do you mean when you confess, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"?
- C **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all dangers and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is MY DUTY TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. This is most certainly true.

(be seated)

Children's Message

The Sermon Hymn *"Lord of All Good"* LSB #786

The Sermon

The Presentation of Our Offerings and Pledges

*As the offering is brought forward,
the congregation sings:*

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB #783 vs 1, 4-6

The Prayers

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Let us pray to the Lord, **C hear our prayer.**

P Remembering that here we have no abiding city but heaven is our home, give us Your aid so that we may by true faith and godly life prepare for the coming of our Savior, doing the works You have called us to do and accomplishing Your purpose in our daily lives. Help us to multiply Your mercy by loving our neighbor in need and loving You with all our body, soul, strength and will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

All 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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (*please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *“Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: *“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Distribution Hymns *(be seated)*

(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup. *Children are welcome to remain standing to receive a blessing from the pastor.*)

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains *white* grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain *red* wine. Gluten free wafers are also available from a communion assistant.)

"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"

LSB #680

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

LSB #610

After communion, the congregation will rise to sing:

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re - calls His prom - is - es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

The Prayer

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(be seated)

Commissioning of Sonny Deke as Stephen Leader (8:00)

The Benediction *(please stand)*

P Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; enjoy your life as you manage all the Father has given you and may Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and (+) the Holy Spirit bless you and keep you.

C Amen

The Closing Hymn

“For The Fruits of His Creation”

LSB #894

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude *“Now Thank We All our God”* Robert A. Hobby