



*The
kingdom
of heaven
is like
treasure
hidden
in a field...*

MATTHEW 13:44



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As We Gather

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 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.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

347 (1-4) – Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

C Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity.

P Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended You and sinned against Your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to Your promises in Christ Jesus.

P God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by His death on the cross and freed us from death by His resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

1 Glory be to God in heav - en, Peace to those He
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let in all His peo - ple
sin a - way, Now with Him in tri - umph seat - ed
Speak His grace, His won - ders tell:
For Your mer - cy, Lord, we pray:
Lord, we praise You for high Your glo - ry,
Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
Might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; Hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior You are God a - lone In the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion And ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" ⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. ⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" ¹⁰ The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 63:1-8

P O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You;

C My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

P So I have looked for You in the sanctuary,

C To see Your power and Your glory.

P Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,

C My lips shall praise You.

- P** Thus I will bless You while I live;
C **I will lift up my hands in Your name.**
P My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
C **And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.**
P When I remember You on my bed,
C **I meditate on You in the night watches.**
P Because You have been my help,
C **Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.**
P My soul follows close behind You;
C **Your right hand upholds me.**

Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 6:17-21

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. ²⁰ O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—²¹ by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

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.

Sermon Text

Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, 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 some of every kind, ⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” ⁵² Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

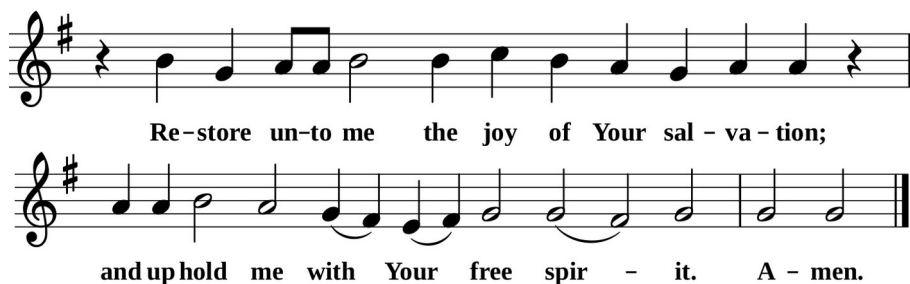
*Sermon***God's Kingdom is our Greatest Treasure**

I. A Truth to Remember

II. A Truth to Share

Offertory

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with in me.
Cast me not a - way from Your pres - ence;
and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re-store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion;
and uphold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

Hymn

348 – Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus

Offering

Offering Hymn

443 (1, 8)



1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To
2 To Thee, from whom we all de - rive Our
Thee all praise and glo - ry to be. How
life, our gifts, and our pow'r to give. Oh,
shall we show our love to Thee, Who giv-est all?
may we ev - er with Thee live, Who giv-est all!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

430 (1-2, 4, 8) – What Is the World to Me



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✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule		
July 30	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
August 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:15 am	Board of Education Meeting
	11:15 am	Ladies' Meeting
August 9	6:00 pm	School Parents' Meeting and Party
	8:15 am	First Day of School (Half Day)
August 13	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: The following is our schedule of meetings through the annual meeting in January:

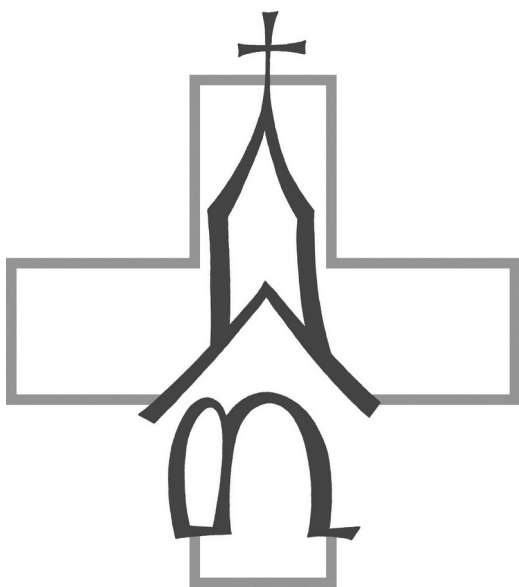
- **August 6** – Board of Education
- **September 3** – Board of Elders
- **October 1** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **November 5** – Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- **November 19** – Board of Education
- **December 3** – Board of Elders/Church Council
- **December 17** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 7** – Annual Voters' Meeting

Man Up! Weekend: The 2023 ManUp! Men's Weekend will be held September 21-24, 2023, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. Register and send in your payment before August 31st for the discounted rate of \$75. Registration increases to \$150 after September 1st. The registration includes lodging and meals. You can register by going to the Man Up! website here: www.manup.clclutheran.org. and clicking on the Registration Form. Sign up today!

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat: Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Spokane Valley, WA is hosting a Women's Retreat, October 6-8, 2023 at Ponderosa Lodge in Cusick, WA. The congregation extends an invitation to all of the sisters in Christ across the CLC and will welcome you warmly if you are able to attend. The theme of the retreat is "Grow in Grace" and is based

upon Psalm 1:3, "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." There will be four main sessions and four devotions. Other activities may include small group book discussion, outdoor activities such as zip line, archery, canoe/kayaking, and more. The price is \$150 for the full weekend which includes five meals. Daily rates are also available for participants who can't stay the whole weekend. Go to: <https://gethsemaneclc.org/events/pacific-coast-womens-retreat> to get more information, to sign-up for email updates, and to register.

CLC News: Missionary Peter Evensen has received the call from Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX. <> Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran, Manchester, MO is considering the call from Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor. Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's in Okabena, MN is considering the call from Calvary Lutheran Church in Marquette, MI.



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

July 31 - August 5

Monday: Matthew 12:46-50 – On the path to our salvation, Jesus faces much opposition, from religious and political rulers, from the devil and demons, and even at times from His own, who do not understand. Who is on His side? Those who do the Father's will (v. 50). "For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life" (Jn 6:40).

Tuesday: Jeremiah 23:16-20 – Some might wonder why the Lord would be so angry about people acting as His spokesmen and giving people a kind of "hope." But it was a false hope (v. 16) and told the people who despised God, in effect, that everything was okay and they didn't need a savior (v. 17).

Wednesday: Jeremiah 23:21-29 – Does it really matter what people believe or trust in, as long as they're religious? God takes it seriously when lies are proclaimed as His word, for the people who trust in those lies are not trusting in the God whose name brings life.

Thursday: Acts 16:16-18 – Why would Jesus' apostle be so troubled when the demon-possessed woman spoke the truth? Just as Jesus would not have an unclean spirit's testimony that He is the holy one of God (Mk 1:24-25), so Paul does not want an alliance with an evil spirit, even to proclaim a truth.

Friday: Acts 16:19-24 – The slave girl possessed by a spirit had been freed, but her human possessors, who had made money from her, saw to it that Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned. This kind of opposition to the Gospel they had faced and overcome many times before (e.g. Acts 5:41).

Saturday: Acts 16:25-32 – In the midst of a very dark time, Paul and Silas are praising God for all that dungeons and chains cannot take away from them. The prisoners hear them, and so does God. Soon even the jailor and his family hear the life-giving word of the Lord, and a very dark time is turned to light!



