

Sunday, August 10th 2025

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
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Bastrop, TX 78602**

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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.



OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Mark McClain
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh
Assisting Elder – Alex Monroe
Usher – Rosie Cabrera
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Lord Is Surely Coming to Give You His Kingdom

The Lord Himself was Abraham’s shield and great reward. For “*the word of the LORD came to him*” and sustained the patriarch’s faith in the face of death (Gen. 15:4). By divine grace, Abraham “*believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness*” (Gen. 15:6), on account of the holy Seed, Christ Jesus. To that one old man, the Lord granted “*descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore*” (Heb. 11:12). The Lord is likewise faithful to you. It is His glad desire “*to give you the kingdom*” (Luke 12:32). Therefore, “*do not be anxious about your life,*” but instead “*seek his kingdom*” (Luke 12:22, 31). Set your heart on that treasure. “*Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning ... for the Son of Man is coming*” (Luke 12:35, 40).

DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 147:8-11

P He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

C He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry.

P His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

C but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:1-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from

one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735

Sermon

Sinner’s Anxiety

Luke 12:22-34

(stand)

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

(stand)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are 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.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- 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."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



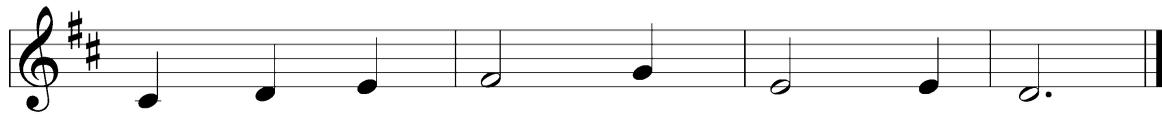
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymn

"If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

LSB 750

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

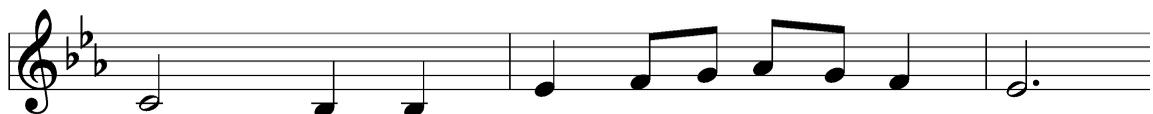
Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

LSB 740

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.



CATECHISM CORNER | *Bite-sized teachings from Luther's Small Catechism*

Written in 1529 in Q&A format, the Small Catechism explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

The Creed (2nd Article): 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

SERMON NOTES: Luke 12:22-34

Sinner's Anxiety

1. A worrying, anxiety-plagued _____ is really no _____ than an _____.
2. The _____ doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes as _____ you've ever _____ for...
3. It's one thing to obsess over what we _____, another to obsess over what we _____; God and Satan know _____.
4. Anxious desperation is a tell-tale _____ of those living in the darkness of not knowing that _____ is aware of them and their _____.
5. "For where your _____ is, there will your _____ be _____." (Luke 12:34)
6. Through the gift of _____ we are assured that our daily _____ will be met and the _____ will never stop coming.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

Epiphany Events Calendar: Our congregation calendar is on our website (epiphanybastrop.org); to add an event, please email secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Offering: Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for Drive Thru History as we explore the lives of the very first Christians in *Acts to Revelation*.

Epiphany Sisters of the Light New Book Discussion: All ladies are invited to join us in reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Jesus invites us to choose “the better part”—a joyful life of intimacy with Him that flows naturally into loving service. We will meet at 6pm on Tuesday, August 26, to discuss the first 6 chapters. Bring a salad to share. Pick up a book at church and start reading!

Stars Needed! We need weekly worship volunteers to help set up before and disassemble (strike the set, so to speak) after on a rotating (at least once a month) schedule. Showtime on a designated Sunday would be 9am. The Epiphany Star Team (a reference to the star that led the Magi, those who “prepare the way” for worship) needs YOU! If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the entrance way.

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. A worrying, anxiety-plagued *Christian* is really no *different* than an *unbeliever*.
2. The *devil* doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns; He comes as *everything* you've ever *wished* for...
3. It's one thing to obsess over what we *want*; another to obsess over what we *need*. God and Satan know *both*.
4. Anxious desperation is a tell-tale *symptom* of those living in the darkness of not knowing that *God* is aware of them and their *needs*.
5. "For where your *treasure* is, there will your *heart* be *also*." (Luke 12:34)
6. Though the gift of *faith* we are assured that our daily *needs* will be met and the *blessings* will never stop coming.

Flash Zoom Study: Experience a glimpse back in time when a pre-flood tabloid news reporter interviews Noah about his unusual building project in the next one-hour, one-time FLASH STUDY on Zoom on Monday, August 11, at 6pm, ***The Noah Interview***. Join us for a 21-minute drama highlighting themes of apologetics, biblical authority, and the Gospel in an entertaining look at the Ark's construction, the Flood, and Noah's faith. Register now: bit.ly/ELC-Noah

New Thursday 6pm Zoom video study, *Help Is Here*, begins on Thursday, August 14. In this 5-session Max Lucado study we'll learn more about the "helper" we know as the Holy Spirit. Join us! Register: bit.ly/ELC-Help

Epiphany Lutheran Church QR Code T-shirts: If you would like to have one (white, blue, or black), please use the order forms in the entry area. (The QR code goes to epiphanybastrop.info/at-a-glance.)

RightNow Media: Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



Lutheran Radio: Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBK (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Erin Mackenzie – missionary in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 223 - Mon 8/11: Isaiah 64-66
- Day 224 - Tue 8/12: Jeremiah 1-3
- Day 225 - Wed 8/13: Jeremiah 4-6
- Day 226 - Thu 8/14: Jeremiah 7-9
- Day 227 - Fri 8/15: Jeremiah 10-13
- Day 228 - Sat 8/16: Jeremiah 14-17
- Day 229 - Sun 8/17: Jeremiah 18-22



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, August 10th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Monday, August 11th

- 6:00pm – Flash Zoom Study: *The Noah Interview*

Thursday, August 14th

- 6:00pm – Max Lucado Zoom Study about the Holy Spirit

Sunday, August 17th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

3-minute



Seminary

“For where your treasure is...”

Jesus’ words in Luke 12:34 cut to the heart of human desire and devotion. “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” In this simple sentence, Jesus reveals a truth that touches every life, no matter the time or place: what we treasure shapes who we are. What we love, pursue, and cling to becomes the compass of our heart and the foundation of our life. Martin Luther writes in the *Large Catechism* under the First Commandment, “That upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.” In other words, whatever we treasure most is what we actually worship.

Jesus teaches this verse in the context of warning against anxiety and misplaced trust in material things. Just before this, he speaks of how the birds do not sow or reap, and yet God feeds them. He tells his disciples not to be anxious about food, clothing, or the future, because “your Father knows that you need them.” Instead, Jesus invites them to seek the kingdom of God, and trust that “all these things will be added to you.” And then, he says, “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

From a Lutheran perspective, these teachings point us to the heart of faith and the danger of idolatry. We are not called merely to a change in behavior, but to a change in the orientation of our heart. This is a matter of repentance and trust in the Gospel. If our treasure is found in the things of this world—wealth, power, comfort, success—then our hearts will always be restless, anxious, and easily shaken. These treasures can vanish in an instant. But if Christ is our treasure, then our hearts are anchored in something eternal.

Luther once said, “I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” This echoes Jesus’ point. Earthly treasures are always slipping through our fingers. But what we entrust to God—our time, our energy, our resources, our very lives—is secure. Not because of our faithfulness, but because of His.

This doesn’t mean Christians are forbidden from having material things. Scripture never condemns possessions, only the love of them. The problem is not wealth itself, but when wealth becomes our master. That is why stewardship is such a vital part of our theology. God gives us everything—life, breath, daily bread—not to hoard, but to use faithfully in love for others and in service to His kingdom.

The question becomes: What does my use of money, time, and energy say about what I treasure? Do I give generously, joyfully, sacrificially? Do I prioritize the things of God—His Word, His Church, His mission? Or do I live as if my security depends on what I can control and store up for myself?

Jesus’ words invite us into a new way of living—one shaped not by fear or scarcity, but by faith and abundance. When we believe that Christ has given us everything, we are free to give without fear. Our hearts follow our treasure. So if we want our hearts to be with God, we begin by treasuring Him above all.

To treasure Christ is to believe that in Him we already possess the greatest riches: forgiveness, life, and salvation. In Him, we are heirs of an eternal kingdom. And that is a treasure that neither moth nor rust can destroy, and that no thief can steal.