



# ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2019

### The Believer Hears Jesus' Warning ...

Jesus warns that earthly wealth is meaningless

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We gather for worship so that we can receive from God the good news of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus is at the center of our faith and our lives. Without him we have nothing. With him we have everything.

- **Welcome Worshiper Cards** are located in the book racks. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate later in the service.
- **Restrooms** are located in the entryway.
- **Two Nursery-Rooms** are available in the entryway for parents with small children.

#### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, kindle in us the fire of faith in you and your gracious hands. May that faith burn through any doubts or worries we may have, so that they may be obliterated. May it keep us warm in the midst of the coldness of this world. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Flowers adorning our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Milt and Mary Maxheimer in celebration of their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary and by David Stepanovich praising Jesus, the light of the world.

**Minister:** Pastor Rich Kogler

**Pianist:** Judith Winsor

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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? After we have put our trust in him as our Savior from sin, how do our lives change? Rather than pursuing worldly wealth, Jesus wants his followers to pursue heavenly riches. Because Christ could return at any moment, we as his followers must always be ready. By keeping our eyes on heavenly treasure rather than worldly wealth, we will be ready whenever he returns.

### OPENING HYMN

**Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink**  
*Christian Worship: #405*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

### ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - - - ens. Your  
faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh,  
taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take ref uge in him.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children are invited to come forward for a message directed at them.*

## FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 15:1-6**

*Abram leaves behind his earthly home with the hope of a permanent dwelling.*

After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield;

your reward will be very great.

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can you give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>Abram continued, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir."

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous."

<sup>6</sup>Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (CSB)



## SECOND LESSON

**Revelation 3:1-6**

*Jesus encourages a church to be ready and watchful*

“Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: Thus says the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Be alert and strengthen what remains, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, then, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you have no idea at what hour I will come upon you. <sup>4</sup>But you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their clothes, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy.

<sup>5</sup>“In the same way, the one who conquers will be dressed in white clothes, and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name before my Father and before his angels.

<sup>6</sup>“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. (CSB)

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**Hebrews 11:1**

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for  
and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.



## **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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER**

### **OFFERING**

*The members of St. Peter congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

**C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

## 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.**

**HYMN**

**O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking**  
*Christian Worship #220*

**PRAYER AND BLESSING**

**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.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: A - men.    A - men.    A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Son of God, Eternal Savior**  
*Christian Worship #492*