

**SEE YOUR LIFE THE WAY GOD DOES**



**FOCUSED**

**Focused Living Properly Values Earthly Wealth**

*The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

*July 31, 2022*

## **SERIES THEME: FOCUSED**

A unique feature of Luke's Gospel is the section in the middle often called "the travel narrative." This lengthy section began in chapter 9 when Luke told us that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (v51). While there are many events and side trips that occur during this travel narrative, Luke regularly stresses that nothing is going to dissuade Jesus from going to Jerusalem where he will fulfill his life's mission. Jesus was very focused. Jesus' mission and the purpose of this journey was not to gain an earthly crown. Throughout this travel narrative, Jesus makes clear that this world was not his real home. He teaches that this world is not our real home either. Jesus is focused on heaven. His mission is to get us there by going to Jerusalem and making the ultimate sacrifice to pay for our sin. Nothing would stop him. "He set his face like flint," Isaiah tells us (50:7). Jesus was focused. As we watch the focused actions of our Savior... as we focus carefully on his words... something wonderful happens. Jesus gives focus to our lives. We finally see things clearly: how to love our neighbor, the true purpose of worship, the blessing of prayer, what is treasure (and what is not). In this series, as Christ speaks to us through his Word, may he make us properly focused.

## **THEME OF THE DAY: FOCUSED LIVING PROPERLY VALUES EARTHLY WEALTH**

Jesus wants focused followers. However, one of the things that can most easily get in the way of our focus is our earthly possessions. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus' words so frequently focus his followers on wealth. Jesus' followers don't reject earthly wealth or despise it. They can be grateful for every good gift that comes from the hand of God. However, Jesus' followers value earthly wealth correctly. They understand what earthly wealth can and cannot do. They don't give earthly wealth a role in their lives it will never be able to fill. This week we focus on the fact that the identity and security earthly wealth can never provide is found fully and freely in Christ.

**Worship Leader**

Pastor Justin Wilkens

**Organist/Pianist**

Quinton Corwin

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting Two (page 172 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 807 All Depends on Our Possessing**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

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

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

*CW 174*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



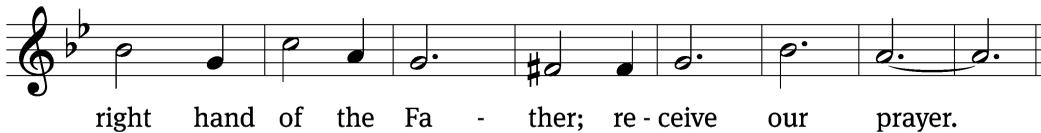
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



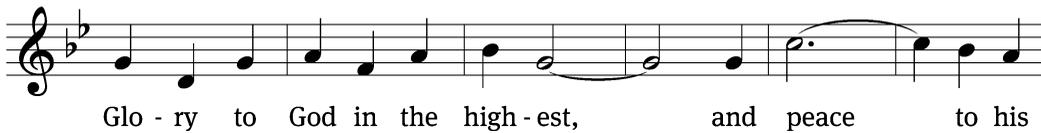
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



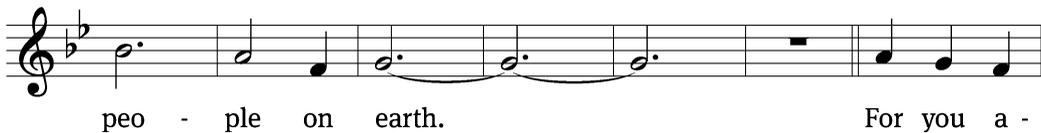
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26*

*King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest man who ever lived, learned by experience the limited value of earthly possessions.*

The words of Ecclesiastes, David's son, king in Jerusalem.

## The Problem

<sup>2</sup> "Nothing but vapor," Ecclesiastes said. "Totally vapor. Everything is just vapor that vanishes."

<sup>12</sup> I, Ecclesiastes, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my heart to seek out and explore with wisdom everything done under the sky. (What a burdensome task God has given the children of Adam to keep them busy!) <sup>14</sup> I have seen all the actions done under the sun, and, look, it is all nothing but vapor. It is all chasing the wind.

<sup>18</sup> I also hated all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard under the sun, since I must leave it all to the man who comes after me. <sup>19</sup> And who knows—will he be wise, or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the results of my hard work, for which I worked so hard and so wisely, under the sun. This too is vapor that vanishes. <sup>20</sup> So I changed my course, and my heart began to despair over all my hard work at which I worked so hard under the sun. <sup>21</sup> Sure, there may be a man who has worked hard—wisely, aptly, and skillfully. But he must hand over whatever he accumulated by all his hard work to a man who has not worked hard for it. This too is vapor. It's so unfair! <sup>22</sup> For what does a man gain through all his hard work, through all the turmoil in his heart, as he works so hard under the sun? <sup>23</sup> Pain fills all his days. His occupation is frustration. Even at night his heart does not rest. This too is vapor.

<sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a man than to eat and to drink and to find joy in his work. This too, I saw, is from God's hand. <sup>25</sup> For who can eat or enjoy himself apart from him? <sup>26</sup> Yes, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness to the man whom he considers good, but to the person who goes on sinning God gives the task of gathering and collecting, but only so that he can give it all to a person whom God considers good. This too is vapor, nothing but chasing wind.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:1–11

*If life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions, then of what does life consist? Paul tells us- the fact that in baptism we died and were raised with Christ.*

Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

## The New Creation

<sup>5</sup> So put to death whatever is worldly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> It is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> You too once walked in these things, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now, you too are to rid yourselves of all of these: wrath, anger, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other since you have put off the old self with its practices, <sup>10</sup> and put on the new self, which is continually being renewed in knowledge, according to the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but rather Christ is all and is in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 6:20,21



*Refrain*

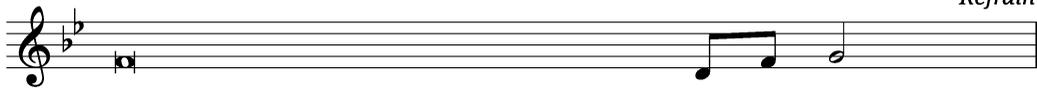


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Store up for yourselves treasures in heav - en,



for where your treasure is, there your heart will be al - so.

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## Gospel

Luke 12:13–21

*Greed's folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.*

<sup>13</sup> Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man's life is not measured by how many possessions he has." <sup>16</sup> He told them a parable: "The land of a certain rich man produced very well. <sup>17</sup> He was thinking to himself, 'What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> He said, 'This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will tell my soul, "Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?' <sup>21</sup> That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

## **Sermon**

*Stand*

### **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*

### **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Hymn: 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

**THE SACRAMENT**

*Stand*

**Preface**

*CW 183*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

## **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

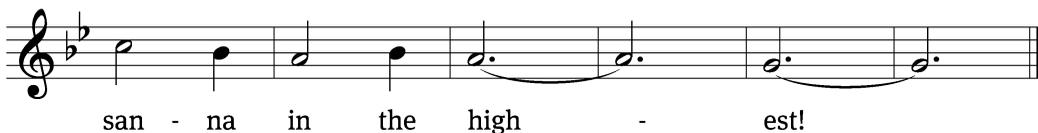
### **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

*CW 184*





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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Hymn: 717 What Is the World to Me

### **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 8:00 AM Bible Study, 8:45 AM Worship and Communion, 9:45 AM Fellowship

**Sunday:** 8:00 AM Bible Study, 8:45 AM Worship, 9:45 AM Fellowship

There will be a joint meeting between Bethel and Grace at Grace, Seward on **Saturday August 6th** starting at 6:30pm.

Immediately following the joint meeting, Grace will have its quarterly voters meeting.

A link will be coming out soon to setup a home visit with Pastor Wilkens.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.graceseward.org](http://www.graceseward.org) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 40 in person, Facebook Reached 11, Audio/YouTube 17. Offerings: Home 1000.00, WELS 190.00, NELHS 695.00, Trinity 195.00, Benevolence 25.00. **To God be the glory!**

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