

SEE YOUR LIFE THE WAY GOD DOES



FOCUSED

Focused Living Properly Values Heavenly Treasure

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 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 HEAVENLY TREASURE

Last week Jesus warned us against overvaluing earthly wealth. This week Jesus warns against undervaluing heavenly treasure. Last week, Jesus exposed the folly of greed. This week, Jesus exposes the folly of worry, even when faced with the prospect of having a shortage of earthly wealth. This week might be the bigger challenge! When it seems we lack providence or protection for our daily lives, it can be hard to avoid worry. But Jesus focuses us. He points to creatures that do not labor or toil, yet are daily fed and clothed. Even more Jesus points to our Father who promises to give us the heavenly treasures of his kingdom. Jesus assures us that Father will throw in needed earthly possessions as well. We can pursue heavenly treasure wholeheartedly, confident that our Father knows all we need.

Worship Leader

Pastor Justin Wilkens

Organist/Pianist

Karma Ridpath

Acknowledgments

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture quotations The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project/NPH. All rights reserved.
www.wartburgproject.org

The Service, Setting Three (page 188 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 830 We Walk by Faith

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 190

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.

Be Seated

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is a short instrumental introduction. The second staff begins with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to'. The third staff continues with 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,'. The fourth staff concludes with 'and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final cadence.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
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. 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. 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.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far 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.

Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

In faith, Abram treasured all the Lord's gracious promises.

The LORD'S Covenant With Abram

¹ After these events the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

² Abram said, "LORD God what can you give me, since I remain childless, and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Abram also said, "Look, you have given me no offspring, so a servant born in my house will be my heir."

⁴ Just then, the word of the LORD came to him. God said, "This man will not be your heir, but instead one who will come out of your own body will be your heir." ⁵ The LORD then brought him outside and said, "Now look toward the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "This is what your descendants will be like." ⁶ Abram believed in the LORD, and the LORD credited it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 121A I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1–3,8–16

The gift of faith allows us to see that treasure that is found in the city whose architect and builder is God.

Faith in Action

¹ Faith is being sure about what we hope for, being convinced about things we do not see. ² For by this faith the ancients were commended in Scripture.

³ By faith we know that the universe was created by God's word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things.

Tone

Do not be afraid, lit - tle flock,
for your Father has been pleased to give you the king - dom. *Refrain*

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

Luke 12:22–34

Jesus assures us we have a Father in heaven who knows what we need better than we do.

Do Not Worry

²² Jesus said to his disciples, "For that reason I tell you, stop worrying about your life, about what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ Certainly life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no warehouse or barn; and yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds! ²⁵ And who of you by worrying can add a single moment to his lifespan? ²⁶ Since you are not able to do this little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? ²⁹ Do not constantly chase after what you will eat or what you will drink. Do not be worried about it. ³⁰ To be sure, the nations of the world chase after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, continue to seek the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you. ³² Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not become old, a treasure in the heavens that will not fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 800 How Firm a Foundation

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

Hymn: 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own

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.**

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.

Hymn: 816 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

A link has been sent out to complete a Google Form which will help Pastor Wilkens to set up home visits. If you aren't able to complete the Google Form then you can call or email Pastor Wilkens to setup a visit.

Everyone is welcome to join Zoe and Armand in celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.

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



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gracelutheranseward



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Sunday Bible Class 13, Worship 48 in person, Facebook Reached 11, Audio/YouTube 11. Offerings: Home 1,855.00, WELS 315.00, NELHS 20.00, Trinity 500.00. **To God be the glory!**

746 Pinewood Ave | Seward, NE | www.graceseward.org