



GOD
DESIGNS THAT
YOUR TRIALS
SHALL HELP YOU,
NOT
HINDER YOU.

*I the LORD... will hold thine hand,
and will keep thee. ISAIAH 42:6*

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9th / August 10th 2020**

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

*If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch
(715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)*

They will be happy to hear from you.

Hymn: 290 vv. 1,3

(One Thing's Needful)

1. One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure
Teach me highly to regard.
All else, though it first give pleasure,
Is a yoke that presses hard.
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain.
Please rise
3. Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure,
Jesus, can be found in you.
Let me find in you my pleasure;
Make my will and actions true,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

Confessions of Sins:

P: 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.

C: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: 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 of the Day:

P: Let us pray

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen

Please be seated

Old Testament Lesson

God offered Solomon anything he wanted. All he had to do was ask.

What would you ask for? Did money spring to mind? Wealth and power are the most common goals. However, without wisdom, wealth and power are abused and lost.

Good health and long life seem like good choices. But, without wisdom, good health and long life are wasted and joyless.

World peace is a popular choice. But we know that, without wisdom, people still do sinful, hurtful, selfish things during peacetime. Look at what people are doing today while the U.S. is at peace.

The more we think about it, the more we realize that without the wisdom to use it well, any gift, any wish, would be wasted.

We marvel at Solomon's faith in choosing wisdom—especially since we so often fail in the choices we make. Solomon chose wisdom to do God's will. How often do we choose wealth over God's will—not for all the riches in the world, but for a few extra over-time hours, or a little extra in our account from shaving down our offering? For such small things we are willing to trade away opportunities for true spiritual wealth.

Look at Solomon and see an example of what God means by spiritual wealth. He doesn't mean we need to live as mendicant monks; he doesn't ask us to forgo all earthly treasure. He just doesn't want us to value them more than the pearl of great price. After choosing spiritual treasure, God blessed Solomon in unbelievable ways. (Do the math on the twenty-five tons worth of gold that was part of Solomon's annual income.) Wisdom seeks God's will above all things. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well.

1 Kings 3:5-12 (EHV)

⁵The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon said, “You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

¹⁰In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon’s request was good. ¹¹So God said to him, “Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹²therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

Gospel Lesson

There aren’t many things that will completely change your life. Not just your area code or your schedule, but everything—the way you see the world, yourself, and your priorities. Falling in love will do it. Having your first child will, too. Your focus changes. There is someone in your life who is more important than you—more important than anything else in your life. You will sacrifice for them—you want to sacrifice for them. Your life is richer, deeper, more meaningful with them in it.

There aren’t many things that will do that. The greatest life changer of all is when the Holy Spirit opens your eyes, restarts your heart, and gives you eternal life by faith. God changes who you are. He provides a deep, abiding joy. We can share it with our family and friends. Our earthly goals take on new meaning. The scope of our life and our awareness expands to infinity and eternity.

Jesus presents two parables that help us picture how precious the kingdom of God is. In each parable someone found great treasure. For one it was a complete surprise, as unexpected as it was valuable. For the other it came from an expert search by a discerning man.

Before they found these new treasures, both men no doubt valued what they previously owned. But once they saw this new treasure, they realized that nothing else could compare!

The spiritual wealth of Christ and his Gospel puts everything else into perspective; in fact, it dwarfs everything else. Consider that parable of the net. All people, rich and poor, will be caught up. Only those who found true spiritual wealth are rescued from the fire. There is only one thing that everyone truly needs.

Jesus encourages us to bring this treasure out to share. We have true wealth, wealth so ancient it predates creation, and wealth so vibrant and new that it fills our hearts and brightens our lives each day. We have found true wealth in Christ. We have been given a storeroom full of treasures new and old. Bring them out to people with joy and delight.

Matthew 13:44-52 (EHV)

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he 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 fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Did you understand all these things?”

They answered him, “Yes.”

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things.”

Hymn: 485 vv. 1,4,5

(We Give Thee but Thine Own)

1. We give thee but thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.
4. To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless,
Is angels' work below.
5. The captives to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace
It is a Christ-like thing

Sermon – Christian Treasure

Jesus said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Mt 19:24, Mk 10:25, Lk 18:25) It creates an entertaining picture, but he gets our attention. We normally think that wealth enables us to do things. Who would think that wealth would prevent someone from doing something?

God warns us against the two biggest problems with money. One of the problems is that we can buy so many things with money. It’s a small step from knowing that money can provide many things to the belief that money can provide everything. The temptation is to put our hope in riches instead of the One who provides them.

The other problem is that we tend to rate success by money. It’s common to think that a job that pays more is a better job or that a life with more money is a better life. That can lead to arrogance, when we start to believe that money is what makes someone important.

God teaches us that money is simply a tool that he provides. There are some things that money does very well. There are others that it doesn’t. Money is great for buying food and clothing. It’s terrible for providing happiness or love. It’s a terrible measure of importance or character.

God tells us to use our wealth to do good—for our families, our communities, and our world. And he tells us to remember the one who created wealth (and love and life and everything else). Let’s put our trust in him and follow his lead. There are so many conflicting ideas about good and evil—so many sinful concepts that are accepted as “knowledge”—it is more important than ever to seek out God’s voice, God’s word, and God’s grace.

It would take a miracle to get a camel through the eye of a needle. It also takes a miracle to get sinners like us into the kingdom of God. Let’s put our faith in the One who performed that miracle.

1 Timothy 6:17-21

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰ O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge.” ²¹ By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted. Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease.

Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Milferd Behnke, Clem Bintz, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Helen Johnson, Sally Kamps, Rose Karr, Kristin & Noah Olson, Dave Schacht, and Lisa Schmitt.

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew). **Firefighter: Steve Campbell.**

Police: Greg Haemker Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The 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 Intuition:

P: 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."

