

SUMMER SCHOOL: LESSONS FROM JESUS
The Parable of the Priceless Treasure

August 9/10, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's eternal love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: SUMMER SCHOOL – Lessons from Jesus

Today we join Jesus and his disciples in the classroom as he tells *parables*. (Jesus' *parables* are extended similes with which he makes a point of comparison between a true-to-life situation [the known] and a spiritual truth [the unknown].) We will observe him teaching in the real world as he performs miracles and teaches us life lessons and eternal life lessons. Through this series we look to keep our faith focused on the Word as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.



Today's Focus: Today Jesus teaches us that God's kingdom is a precious treasure, whether stumbled upon or found after much seeking. The blessings of forgiveness of sins and eternal life are the most precious thing we could possess and share.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless the preaching of the law and gospel as it rings out throughout the world, and as it touches my heart here today. Give me and all people the joyful experience of knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and the sure hope of eternal life that is mine in his name. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Seek Where You May

Christian Worship #395:1,3,4



1 Seek where you may To find a way
~~2 Seek~~ whom you may To be your stay;
3 Seek him a - lone, Who did a - tone,
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright,



That leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is
None can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers
Who did your souls de - liv - er; Oh, seek him
Je - sus, you are for - ev - er. Not wealth or



stilled; On Christ I build— He is the
failed; This man pre - vailed, The God - Man,
first, All you who thirst For grace that
pride Or aught be - side Our bond of



one foun - da - tion. His Word is sure; His
and none oth - er. The Ser - vant - Lord Our
fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry need Seek
love shall sev - er. You are my Lord; Your



works en - dure. He will o'er - throw My
life re - stored. We're jus - ti - fied, For
him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart He
pre - cious Word Shall be my guide What -



ev - 'ry foe; Through him I more than con - quer.
he has died, The guilt - less for the guilt - y.
will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
e'er be - tide. Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

INVOCATION

We gather as baptized, forgiven children of God.

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

RESPONSES

Romans 8; Matthew 6; Philipians 3, 4

M: What good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

C: I consider everything to be a loss because of what is worth far more: knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.

M: That I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, which comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God by faith.

C: Our God will fully supply our every need, according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever! Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: People loved by God, let us lay bare our hearts before God and confess our sinfulness and ask him for forgiveness, in Jesus' name, for...

...we have sought the world and have not sought first God's kingdom.

We have put our hope in the uncertainty of riches rather than in God who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment.

We have been selfish in our attitude and actions rather than rich in good works.

Silence for personal reflection

C: (spoken) Before you, God, the Judge of all, with grief and shame I humbly fall. I see my sins against you, Lord, My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me sore; to you I flee: O God, be merciful to me!

ABSOLUTION

M: God has heard our prayer. In love he has provided the remedy for sin. He sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life in our place, to suffer the punishment our sins deserve, and to give us eternal life. In Jesus' name, I forgive you all your sins. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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.

THE WORD

LESSON

1 Timothy 6:17-21

Earthly treasures can never provide security or a sense of worth. God commands us not to trust in earthly treasure because he wants us to have a firm foundation on certain and secure spiritual wealth. For spiritual treasure is treasure laid up in heaven.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children remain seated with their families as pastor shares a message.

HYMN

Where Your Treasure Is

Christian Worship Supplement #757

*The soloist will introduce the refrain and sing the verses;
the congregation is invited to join in the subsequent refrains.*

Refrain



Where your treas-ure is, there your heart shall be.



All that you pos - sess will nev - er set you



free. Seek the things that last; come and learn from



me. Where your treas-ure is, your heart shall be.

Refrain (soloist)

Refrain *(congregation)*

What do you gain from all your worry,
What you should eat or what to wear?
There is no peace in stress or hurry.
Do you not know that you are held within God's care?

Refrain *(congregation)*

Look at the ravens high above you.
They do not work their whole life through,
And yet God feeds them and protects them.
So how much more will God protect and care for you?

Refrain *(congregation)*

Behold the lilies in their splendor.
In grace and beauty they are dressed,
And yet so soon their bloom is faded.
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed?

Refrain (*congregation*)

O little flock, do not be frightened;
Yours is the kingdom of the Lord.
Give your possessions to the needy;
Obtain a treasure in God's heaven safely stored.

Refrain (*congregation*)

SERMON

Matthew 13:44-52

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.”

What Is Christ's Kingdom Worth?

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

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone—whether worshipping in person or watching online—fill out our Connection Card on our web site at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship.

OFFERING PRAISE

I Will Rise

By Chris Tomlin

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, Almighty King of Glory: We stand before you with a poor record of mixed-up priorities. Too often we have forgotten our heavenly destiny and eternal goals and focused too intently on earthly concerns. Free us from our short-sighted vision and selfish ambition and raise our sights to the more significant matters of eternal life. Help us to manage the things of this life wisely and honorably, that those who have plenty may help those that are in need. Give our president and other national leaders great wisdom as they help us navigate through this pandemic. Come with your power and help those adversely affected by it. Govern all the affairs of this world for the sake of the spread of the Gospel to as many as possible. All this we ask of you, confident that you hear the prayers of your people who pray in the name of Jesus.

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Based on Romans 15:13

M: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

All Depends on Our Possessing

Christian Worship #421:1,3,5



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
~~2 He~~ who to this day has fed me And to man - y
 3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
~~4 Well~~ he knows what best to grant me; All the long - ing
 5 If on earth my days he length - en, He my wea - ry



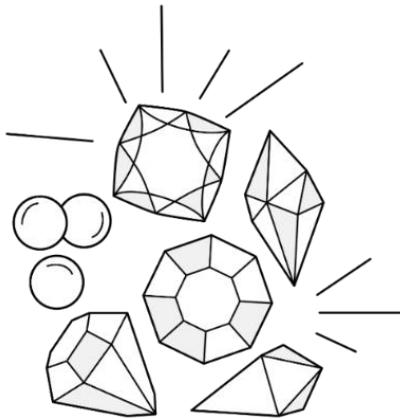
grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me Is and ev - er shall be mine.
 and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
 hopes that haunt me, Joy and sor - row, have their day.
 soul will strength - en; All my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en In their God are
 He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, He who dai - ly
 I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
 I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er— As God wills, so
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, Like a stream a -



not for - sak - en And e'er keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, Will re - main my help di - vine.
 last - ing plea - sure And that now is sel - dom found.
 be it ev - er— I to him com - mit my way.
 way is glid - ing; Safe I an - chor in his grace.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus
Scripture Readers: Randy Pelischek – 8:00 am
Bruce Heckmann – 9:45 am
Keyboardist: Linda Clarey
Soloist: Bethany Kempfert

Seek Where You May

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635, abr.; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt. Text, tune, setting: public domain.

Where Your Treasure Is

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All Depends on Our Possessing

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Holy Bible

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