

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Peace Lutheran Church
September 28th, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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"Peace Lutheran Church ... Our mission as a caring family is to reach out to all, share Christ's love, and teach God's Word."

Our Vision: Equipping Our Members to Take the Message of Jesus Where They Live, Work and Play

MORNING MEDITATION

"Take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:19). Paul writes these words of encouragement and instruction to Timothy as he closes the first letter addressed to him. It's an important encouragement for us today as well since there are so many other things in this life that we're tempted to take hold of for security, status, or hope. The parable Jesus tells in our gospel reading is a good reminder of just how easy it can be to give in to these temptations. Jesus tells the parable of a rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus is poor, destitute, needy, "living in the hopeless, hungry side of town" as Johnny Cash would say. The rich man, by comparison, has everything. He feasted every day, dressed himself in the finest clothes, spared no expense for himself; he had taken hold of that which is truly life. Seemingly. Because as the story progresses, we discover that it's Lazarus who has taken hold of that which is truly life by putting his trust in the mercy of God and now he lives forever in the loving embrace of God's people in heaven. The rich man has nothing. That which seemed so real and certain in his life has turned to ashes. This parable is God's loving reminder to us to take hold of that which is truly life; mercy, generosity, faithfulness, and humility. In other words, it is our reminder to take hold of Christ who is the embodiment of these things. And as we strive to hold on to the new life he has given us,

we rest securely in his promises of grace that hold on to us with herculean force. Christ, in his incarnation, has taken hold of this world, he has claimed it as his own, and he will never let it go. He did not allow the hatred of his enemies, the lies of his accusers, the injustice of governments, or even death itself to break the vice grip he has on it. Christ has taken hold of this world, and he has taken hold of you in the waters of your baptism. There are no powers on this earth nor any kind of force that can snatch you away from his loving hands. So take heart, my friends, Christ will never let you go; and take hold, my friends, of the new life He has won for you.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *LSB 802*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING PSALM *Psalms 103*

P Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C **and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

P The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

C so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

P as far as the east is from the west,

C so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

P As a father shows compassion to His children,

C so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

P For He knows our frame;

C He remembers that we are dust.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for personal confession)

P O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you

all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

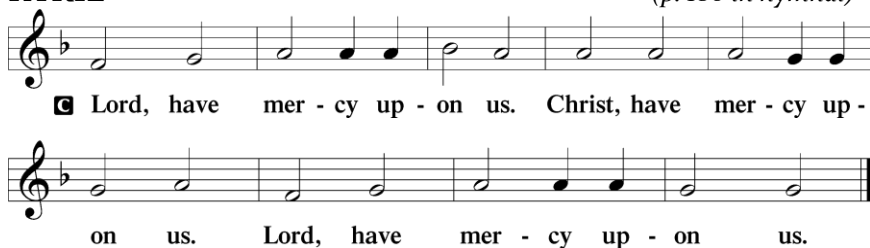
✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” *LSB 791 v.1-4*

KYRIE

(p. 186 in hymnal)



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, King of kings and Lord of lords, You give Your people strength to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Support us in the good fight of the faith that we may take hold of the eternal life to which You have called us; through Jesus Christ, the blessed and only sovereign, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *1 Timothy 2:5-6a*

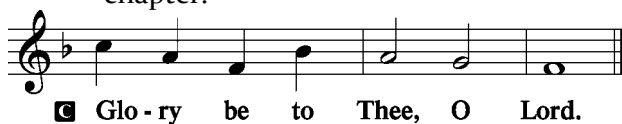


P If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.



HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 16:19-31*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.



(The Gospel is read.)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



CREED *Apostles' Creed*

C I believe in God,
The Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth

And in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness,
the resurrection of the body,
and the ✠ life everlasting. Amen.**

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” *LSB 708*

Pastor Jonathan Dueker

(p. 192 in hymnal)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new

a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way

from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



OFFERING

You may also give electronically:

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- o Click on the “Give” button or “Ministries” and then on “Online Giving”
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray. We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord. You are the Father everlasting by all the earth adored. Grant to Your whole church throughout the world the strength and peace of unity in the faith and proclamation of Your pure Word, that all people may know the glory of Your salvation from sin and the gift of redemption and eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P To You O Lord, all angel powers cry aloud, cherubim and seraphim bring their praises to You. Grant us the same hearts and minds of wonder for Your glory, so that we might be as the heavenly hosts in ceaseless worship, giving You praise in everything that we do. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the Church, the deathless voices of Your prophets, apostles, and martyrs of Your kingdom give witness to Your salvation.

We pray You include us as those who acknowledge You now by faith that we may be received into their fellowship not by our merits but solely because of Your grace. Give us Your Spirit of courage, that we might remain steadfast in this

confession of faith and Church and suffer all, even death,
rather than fall away from it. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P You are the King of glory, O Christ, the everlasting Son of the Father. By Your death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Through the promises of baptism, you have chosen us to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for Your own possession, that we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Each day of our lives, O Lord, keep us mindful of the riches of Your kingdom that we may know the contentment of Your eternal blessings and not be distracted by temptations of worldly wealth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, we pray for all who are in any need, for those who need the grace of Your help and healing, those who are in trouble, those who doubt Your kindness, those who fear death, and all who are sick or injured, especially those who have requested our prayers. We pray now for *Ruth, Neil, Ed, Ruth, Heather, Sharon, Kathy, Dianne, Darrin, and Matt* as well as *Sandy, Rich, Kat, Amy, Julie, Bob, Shelly, Sammi, and Opal*. Be their help, healing, and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

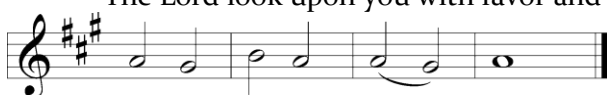
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,**

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.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

HYMN “O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace” *LSB 693*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 4. Divine Service Setting Three
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Epistle

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take

hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Holy Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them

from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"