

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

18 September 2022



Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# **Service of Holy Communion**

## ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3***

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.  
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

### **Prelude / Ringing of the Bell**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*(There is a time of silence for reflection.)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn #685 “Take My Life, That I May Be”**



**Greeting** (page 138)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

♫ **Kyrie** (pages 138-139)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

♫ **This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation.  
Blessing, honor, glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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**For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.    **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *concluding:* **C: Amen**

### **Readings**

L: The Word of the Lord.    **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**♫ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.    **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.    **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children's Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen**

### **Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen**

### **Hymn #655 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”**

### **Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*Continued next page*

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

P: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*(Each petition ends: P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.)*

P: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

♫ **Great Thanksgiving** (page 144)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

♫ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



## **Words of Institution**

## **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.**

### ***Holy Communion is celebrated today.***

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion  
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**✠ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.**

## **Hymn #793 “Be Thou My Vision”**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### **Post-Communion Canticle (Hymn 204)**

**✠ Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and bear Christ's holy name.  
Send us with your promises**

**and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray.

**P:** Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Blessing**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn #669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”**

### **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Share the good news. **C: Thanks be to God!**

### **Ring of the Bell / Postlude**

**Pastor:** Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

**Organist:** Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

**Acolyte:** David Burke

**Lector:** Amy Glover

**Communion Assistant:** Deb Detlefs

**Usher:** Brian Bousselot

**Cleaners:** Shane and Amy Glover

### **Contact Information:**

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### **This Week At A Glance**

Wednesday	6:00 pm	Confirmation at Faith
	7:00 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
	8:30 pm	Bible study at Faith
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Our Savior's
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Faith
	10:30	Worship service at Faith

**Those to keep in prayer** Cathy Goddard, Dawn Dosland, Ruth Braet, Lucy Lee Petersen, Velma Jensen, Megan Mineck Wentland, Ryan Dick, Tim Burke, Barb Johnson; the homebound: Norman Bousselot, Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson, Ron Gasper, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand, and Joan Shelton; and those serving in the military.

Today, Wallen Dean Goettsch, son of Landon and Gabrielle Goettsch, will be baptized into the family of Christ. Wallen's sponsors are Kiley Gates and Leah Warnemunde.

The noisy offering will be collected today. The recipient for 2022 is ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for your contributions.



# *A Bad Man's Good Example*

By William Barclay | [www.bibleportal.com/commentary/chapter/william-barclay](http://www.bibleportal.com/commentary/chapter/william-barclay)

*Luke 16:1-13 Jesus said to his disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward. He received information against the steward which alleged that he was dissipating his goods. He called him, and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What am I to do? I have not the strength to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do, so that, when I am removed from my stewardship, they will receive me into their houses.' So he summoned each of the people who owed debts to his master. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'Nine hundred gallons of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your account and sit down and write quickly, four hundred and fifty.' Then he said to another 'And you--how much do you owe?' He said, 'A thousand bushels of corn.' He said to him, 'Take your accounts and write eight hundred.' And the master praised the wicked steward because he acted shrewdly; for the sons of this world are shrewder in their own generation than the sons of light. And, I tell you, make for yourselves friends by means of your material possessions, even if they have been unjustly acquired, so that when your money has gone they will receive you into a dwelling which lasts forever. He who is trustworthy in a very little is also trustworthy in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If you have not shown yourself trustworthy in your ordinary business dealings about material things, who will trust you with the genuine wealth? If you have not shown yourselves trustworthy in what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own? No household slave can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot be the slave of God and of material things."*

This is a difficult parable to interpret. It is a story about as choice a set of rascals as one could meet anywhere.

The steward was a rascal. He was a slave, but he was nonetheless in charge of the running of his master's estate. In Palestine there were many absentee landlords. The master may well have been one of these, and his business may well have been entrusted to his steward's hands. The steward had followed a career of embezzlement.

The debtors were also rascals. No doubt what they owed was rent. Rent was often paid to a landlord, not in money, but in kind. It was often an agreed proportion of the produce of the part of the estate which had been rented. The steward knew that he had lost his job. He, therefore, had a brilliant idea. He falsified the entries in the books so that the debtors were debited with far less than they owed. This would have two effects. First, the debtors would be grateful to him; and second, and much more effective, he had involved the debtors in his own misdemeanours, and, if the worst came to the worst, he was now in a strong position to exercise a little judicious blackmail!

The master himself was something of a rascal, for, instead of being shocked at the whole proceeding, he appreciated the shrewd brain behind it and actually praised the steward for what he had done.

The difficulty of the parable is clearly seen from the fact that Luke attaches no fewer than four different lessons to it.

(i) In Luke 16:8 the lesson is that the sons of this world are wiser in their generation than the sons of light. That means that, if only the Christian was as eager and ingenious in his attempt to attain goodness as the man of the world is in his attempt to attain money and comfort, he would be a much better man. If only men would give as much attention to the things which concern their souls as they do to the things which concern their business, they would be much better men. Over and over again a man will expend twenty times the amount of time and money and effort on his pleasure, his hobby, his garden, his sport as he does on his church. Our

Christianity will begin to be real and effective only when we spend as much time and effort on it as we do on our worldly activities.

(ii) In Luke 16:9 the lesson is that material possessions should be used to cement the friendships wherein the real and permanent value of life lies. That could be done in two ways.

(a) It could be done as it affects eternity. The Rabbis had a saying, "The rich help the poor in this world, but the poor help the rich in the world to come." Ambrose, commenting on the rich fool who built bigger barns to store his goods, said, "The bosoms of the poor, the houses of widows, the mouths of children are the barns which last forever." It was a Jewish belief that charity given to poor people would stand to a man's credit in the world to come. A man's true wealth would consist not in what he kept, but in what he gave away.

(b) It could be done as it affects this world. A man can use his wealth selfishly or he can use it to make life easier, not only for himself, but for his friends and his fellow-men. How many a scholar is forever grateful to a rich man who gave or left money to found bursaries and scholarships which made a university career possible! How many a man is grateful to a better-off friend who saw him through some time of need in the most practical way! Possessions are not in themselves a sin, but they are a great responsibility, and the man who uses them to help his friends has gone far to discharge that responsibility.

(iii) In Luke 16:10-11 the lesson is that a man's way of fulfilling a small task is the best proof of his fitness or unfitness to be entrusted with a bigger task. That is clearly true of earthly things. No man will be advanced to higher office until he has given proof of his honesty and ability in a smaller position. But Jesus extends the principle to eternity. He says, "Upon earth you are in charge of things which are not really yours. You cannot take them with you when you die. They are only lent to you. You are only a steward over them. They cannot, in the nature of things, be permanently yours. On the other hand, in heaven you will get what is really and eternally yours. And what you get in heaven depends on how you



use the things of earth. What you will be given as your very own will depend on how you use the things of which you are only steward."

(iv) Luke 16:13 lays down the rule that no slave can serve two masters. The master possessed the slave, and possessed him exclusively. Nowadays, a servant or a workman can quite easily do two jobs and work for two people. He can do one job in his working time and another in his spare time. He can, for instance, be a clerk by day and a musician by night. Many a man augments his income or finds his real interest in a spare-time occupation. But a slave had no spare time; every moment of his day, and every ounce of his energy, belonged to his master. He had no time which was his own. So, serving God can never be a part-time or a spare-time job. Once a man chooses to serve God every moment of his time and every atom of his energy belongs to God. God is the most exclusive of masters. We either belong to him totally or not at all.