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Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Worship –9:30 am

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025

AS WE GATHER

There is a lot of “wisdom” floating around our world on how to become wealthy. Some of the celebrities of our modern age are people like Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, and Elon Musk. They are people who seem to have a super abundance of everything. Many of us spend at least one-third of our lives working to accumulate enough wealth to hopefully retire in comfort and security. Yet, as Jesus reminds us, our focus is misplaced when we mistakenly believe that our investments, our retirement funds, and our possessions are actually our own—that we earned them all by ourselves. We come together today to worship the King of all creation who generously gives us everything that we have for this world and the next.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN No 722

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

**Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me Unto the end.**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 100

P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
C: **Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!**

P: Know that the LORD, he is God!
C: **It is he who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
C: **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P: For the LORD is good;
C: **His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God,
C: **You are the giver of everything we have. Yet, we are guilty of coveting the possessions, experiences, and social standing of others. We sin by valuing these things above You. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins. Renew us in Your knowledge and conform us to Your image by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

P: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God's forgiveness because of Jesus. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, You are the Giver of all that we have, including all that we are.
C: **We praise and thank You for blessing us with family, friends, opportunities, jobs, and possessions.**

P: Guide us to be good stewards of all You generously give us;
C: **through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and Reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,**

P: one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ecclesiastes 1:2; 12-14; 2:18-26 (Enjoying your work is a gift from God.)
Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and

skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.
²² What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³ For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Colossians 3:1-11 (Live as the people you are in Christ.)

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE Colossians 3:23-24a

L: Alleluia. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

C: **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21 (Trust in the Giver of all that is good.)

(Please rise if you are able.)

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*Please be seated.*)

SERMON HYMN No 809 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not:
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

SERMON "The Brevity of Life" Ecclesiastes 1:20-21 and Colossians 3:1-4
Rev. Perry Schefelker

CREED The Nicene Creed (*Please rise if you are able.*)

C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✕ of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Please be seated.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✕ SACRAMENT ✕

P: The Lord be with you as you receive His Supper.

C: **And also with you, His servant.**

P: Let us rejoice and give thanks to Christ, for in this Meal He gives us Himself and all the blessings that He earned for us.

C: **To Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.**

P: Lord, we come to Your Table at this time to receive from You the spiritual nourishment that You alone can give. You not only provide for the needs of our bodies and lives but also provide us the eternal promise of salvation through Your blessed death, rest in the tomb, and victorious resurrection.

C: **Come to each of us in a personal way with Your forgiveness, strength, and peace. Give us faith to trust You boldly, hope to secure our souls in You; but best of all Your graces, with Your love our love renew. men.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

THE 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.**

P: The meal has been prepared and the invitation is now extended: Come, and receive the goodness of the Lord.

THE DISTRIBUTION VIDEO SONGS:

“As the Deer” by Robin Mark (2011) You Tube-cut off verbal ending—Dale and Eric) (*Nancy, please pass on these notes.*)

“Borning Cry” by John Ylvisaker (Aug. 17,2022; Windsor Park United Church Choir)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray together.

C: **We praise You, O God, for the gifts which You have provided us through this special and sacred meal. And we pray that through this means of Your grace You would strengthen our faith that we may praise You with our lips, honor You with our thoughts, and glorify You in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The blessing of God—our Creator heavenly Father; His loving Son, our Savior and Leader; and our counseling and comforting Holy Spirit—be with you, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN No. 806

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

(Please stand if able.)

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given
Jesus Christ His Son.**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,”
Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, Give thanks.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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