

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



### Don't Lose Focus!

Most of you are old enough to remember the television pictured. This great photo from Great Britain reminds us how far we have come. Not only have we left televisions with tubes behind, we have left many color TVs, computers, game systems, bag phones, and the like—all behind us. The young man pictured was probably the family remote control. When the channel needed to be changed, he had to get up and do it!

Now we have a whole new myriad of devices which “make our life easier.” We tend to allow the constant upgrades and mixing of life with artificial reality to

dominate what we watch and what we do.

Jesus reminds us that there are many things that will distract us, and that we should make the extra effort not to lose sight of what really matters. It is the love of Jesus that matters in our lives, and not the fact that our smart phone is not talking to our tablet. We need to focus on what really is important.

What's also interesting is that it is estimated that there are about 11,000 black and white televisions still in use across Great Britain. It might suggest not everyone is enamored with technology! We must always be on our guard to be ready, in the right place, at the right time, for when the King returns.

What most people forget is that it is not about the timing when the Master returns. What is important is that we are always ready, no matter what, for His return. We'll hear about the bridegroom and the wedding feast, and the small amount of time that the guests would have to be allowed into the feast. They had to be there and ready, no matter what time the Guest of Honor would arrive, or they simply missed out. Let's be ready for the Kingdom!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

### GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

### CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

In this Pentecost Season, we confess to You, O Lord, that we live in a broken world. We know that the world around us is broken by the power of sin, and we find that it surrounds us in all we do. Unfortunately for us, we see all manner of brokenness that filters into our life as well. It sticks to us, even when we do not want it to happen. This morning, we confess we find ways to wound our lives, the lives of others, and the very world itself. We realize that the world has a way to creep into our existence and replace the good you would have us do with ways that serve only ourselves. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things 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**

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In this Pentecost season, Lord – help us to keep the way of the world out of our lives, and serve only you. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this morning in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

### HYMN 392 How Firm a Foundation 1,3,5

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Alleluia. Keep awake and be ready for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia.**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

These are the visions that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. He saw these visions during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah.

Listen to the Lord, you leaders of “Sodom.” Listen to the law of our God, people of “Gomorrah.” “What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?” says the Lord. “I am sick of your burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened cattle. I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to worship me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony?

Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts, the incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and your special days for fasting— they are all sinful and false. I want no more of your pious meetings. I hate your new moon celebrations and your annual festivals. They are a burden to me. I cannot stand them!

When you lift up your hands in prayer, I will not look. Though you offer many prayers, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with the blood of innocent victims. Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of my sight.

Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. If you will only obey me, you will have plenty to eat. But if you turn away and refuse to listen, you will be devoured by the sword of your enemies. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

**THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8–16**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-48**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.

“Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON

“True Wealth”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 417 My Faith Looks Up to Thee 1,2,4**

## OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

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. 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.

## THE OFFERING:

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

## THE DISTRIBUTION

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING

## HYMN 465 Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak 1,2,4

## THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, ***please place your cell phones on muted*** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

**SILENCE MAY BE “GOLDEN”** You might notice after each worship service, our volunteer counters sit down in a corner and begin the count of the offering. They do a fantastic job, but we probably could serve them better by not picking that time to go up to them and speak to them. The job is made much more difficult by multiple interruptions, so we can serve them well by making note of their work.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Please us a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Our August Bible Study dates will be August 24th and August 31st, as we continue wrapping up our Summer of Psalms series. In September, we'll move to a new study. Those dates are September 14 and September 21. We apologize in advance if these dates are difficult, but it is quite challenging to get everything in the right place for the right time! We do hope you can join us at 10:00 AM each time we gather!

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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