

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15 & 18, 2022

Serve God with Money; You Can't Serve God and Money

Opening Hymn 645, "One Thing's Needful"

Order of Service..... Setting One, Page 154

Prayer of the Day: O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (*On Insert*)..... Psalm 17A

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Page 161

Gospel Acclamation Verse: *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, /* and all these things will be given to you as well. (SUNG! – See Pg. 161.)*

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 807, "All Depends on Our Possessing"

SERMON..... "Be Good Managers of God's Gifts" Luke 16:1-13

Offering Hymn 729 v. 3, "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

Nicene Creed Pages 162-163

Communion Liturgy Page 165

Communion Hymn..... 670, "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"

Closing Liturgy Page 170

Closing Hymn 695 vv. 1-3, "Take My Life and Let It Be"

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

King Solomon knew from experience that if you serve money, you will end up disappointed.

Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor. When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes? The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep.

I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger.

So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

Saint Paul teaches in straightforward language that serving money will lead to spiritual destruction. But serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction and utter ruin. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains. 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. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

All money actually belongs to God; he loans it to us to manage for his glory. Through a parable, Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him.

Jesus also said to his disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. The rich man called him in and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.' "The manager said to himself, 'What will I do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.'

"He called each one of his master's debtors to him. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'Six hundred gallons of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.' Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' And he said, 'Six hundred bushels of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.'

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. The person who is faithful with very little is also faithful with much. And the person who is unrighteous with very little is also unrighteous with much. So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon who will entrust you with what is really valuable? If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? No servant can serve two masters. Indeed, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS WEEK: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next week: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

BAPTISM: On Saturday, September 17, we will welcome (welcomed) Kaia Leighann Foulkes into God's kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism. Kaia was born September 11 to Sarah and Alex Foulkes. We rejoice at Kaia's rebirth through water and the Word!

ORGANISTS!! The **October** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

LWMS FREE-WILL OFFERING: TODAY we will be taking a free-will offering to help support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. We hope many of you will consider supporting their mission efforts. Both cash and check donations are acceptable. If paying by check, please make payable to: **LWMS**. If you would like more information about LWMS, please speak with our congregational leader, Becky Schulz.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/TEEN BIBLE STUDY/ADULT BIBLE CLASS: All classes will begin **Sunday (TODAY)** at approximately **10:15 AM**. The classes will run until **11:00 AM**.

FALL GOLF OUTING: Sunday (TODAY) is our annual golf outing. It begins at **12:30 PM** at **Horicon Hills Golf Course**. Have a "tee"-rific time!

DARTBALL IS STARTING! The dartball season is set to start this **Wednesday, September 21**. The first games for St. Matthew's will take place here at home. If anyone is interested in joining the team or has any questions about dartball, please contact **Doug Schulz** or **Wayne Schultz**. Best of luck to the team this season!

MISSION FEST: This year's Mission Festival worship service is set for next **Sunday, September 25**, at **9:00 AM**. Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg, the Executive Director of Chaplains in Schools, will be our guest speaker and will discuss spreading the Gospel through Christian school communities in inner city Milwaukee. All our school children will be singing for this service. There will also be a presentation following the worship service. The Service Group will be providing/serving "finger foods" prior to the presentation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special worship service and presentation.

In addition, Pastor Steinberg has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker at the **Thursday (9/22)** evening worship service as well, so everyone has an opportunity to learn about this mission opportunity!

MISSION FEST OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please note that there are TWO envelopes you are encouraged to use from your envelope packets for Mission Fest. The first is the usual WHITE church budgetary envelope. The second is a special RED Mission Festival envelope. Any amounts placed in the RED envelope will go directly to help support mission efforts such as Chaplains in Schools rather than to our church budget.

BATH & BODY SALE: The PTL is currently holding a bath & body products sale with the help of the Merry Miner Soap Shoppe (aka Alex Foulkes) to raise money for new girls' and boys' basketball uniforms for this year. 30% of all proceeds will be donated for these uniforms. If you are interested in purchasing some of these items to help support this effort, please look for the informational flyer on the table at the back of church or speak to any of our school families. All orders will be taken ONLINE ONLY. The link can be found on the flyer, or if you'd like it emailed to you, please contact **Debbi Foulkes** at the school office (**920-625-6600**) or email the school office at **office@stmatthewironridge.com**. Orders **and payment** are due: **Friday, September 30!** If you have any questions about this sale, please direct them to **Alex Foulkes (920-763-2766)**. Thanks, in advance, to everyone who supports this sale!

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by Pastor & Connie Mose in celebration of thirty-three years of wedded bliss!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 21; Sunday: 114

Offerings: \$3,754.95

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,889.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$40.00; Blacktop Fund: \$500.00

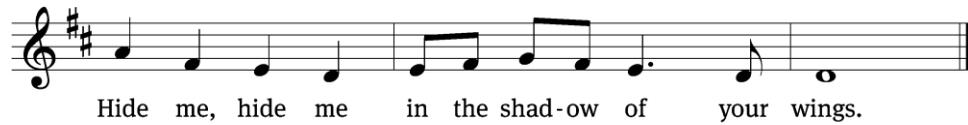
OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday:	Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM (LWMS: Free-Will Offering) Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School..... 10:15 AM Golf Outing (@ Horicon Hills) 12:30 PM
Thursday:	Worship Service 7:00 PM (Guest Preacher: Pastor Paul Steinberg, Chaplains in Schools)
Sunday:	MISSION FESTIVAL 9:00 AM <i>Presentation to immediately follow service</i>

17A Keep Me As the Apple of Your Eye

Psalm 17A

Refrain



Tone



Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen / to my cry.

Hear my prayer—it does not rise from de- / ceitful lips.

Let my vindication / come from you;

may your eyes see / what is right. *Refrain*

I call on you, my God, for you will / answer me;

turn your ear to me and / hear my prayer.

Show me the wonders of / your great love,

you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you / from their foes.

As for me, I will be vindicated and will / see your face;

when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your / likeness.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Jane Marshall

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