



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Third Sunday in Lent

Money and Value – Matthew 19-20

March 12, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

What do you give to the person who “has it all”? Jesus would say to give it all away! Today we’ll meet a rich young man as he encounters Jesus. You probably know the story well. He’ll ask Jesus what good deed he must do in order to have eternal life. Jesus’ response is not what he expects, and not something that he can do. Sell it all.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are a visitor we invite you to sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher’s stand.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings.

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
So that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,
forgives you in Christ's name;
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Glorify Thy Name

(For music turn to Hymn 13 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Father, we love you
we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!**

**2. Jesus, we love you
we worship and adore you.**

**Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!**

**3. Spirit, we love you
we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!**

Conclusion

**Glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth!**

Text and music: Donna Adkins; Copyright 1976, 1981 Maranatha! Music; CCLI #1383

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 10)

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.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, our certain source of love, there is nothing we can give you that you don't already have. There is nothing we can think that you haven't already thought. There is nothing we can create that you haven't already created. Fill us with awe at your infinite power and limitless goodness that comes through your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 75 (read responsively)

B: We praise you, God,
and give you thanks.
You are present to us
as we tell your wonders.

**C: “I, your God, choose the moment
to set things right.**

B: Though earth and its people tremble,
I secure its foundations.

**C: I say to the proud, stop boasting!
to the wicked, stop it!**

B: Stop promoting yourselves,
pitting yourselves against the Rock.”

**C: No help from east or west,
from desert or mountain,**

B: for God alone judges,
levels some, raises others.

**C: The Lord holds a foaming cup,
pours the wicked a heady wine;
they drain it to the dregs.**

B: But I sing praise forever,
make music for the God of Jacob,

**C: who breaks the power of the wicked
and strengthens the just.**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 19:26b)

C: Jesus said, “For God all things are possible.”

Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-20:16

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 19-20th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹Honor your father

and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”²⁰The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?”²¹Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”²²When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.²³Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?”²⁶But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”²⁷Then Peter said in reply, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the

same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
(for music, see Hymn 597 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. **When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

3. **His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

4. **When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain***

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with 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 to the dead.
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 catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

‡ PRAYER ‡

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer to you what is already your own: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Guide us so that we may use your gifts in the service of your will; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: God, the giver of love,
Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Travelers on the Journey
(For music turn to Hymn 37 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

**We are
trav'lers on the journey
yearning to believe!
Hearts are burning
eyes are opened.
We are
trav'lers on the journey of love.**

**1. What is life really all about
in the struggle of faith?
Hear the word reaching out to you,
Jesus is alive today.** *Refrain*

**2. Do we walk in our foolishness
with our hearts ever slow
to the touch of the Holy One
who is with us on this road?** *Refrain*

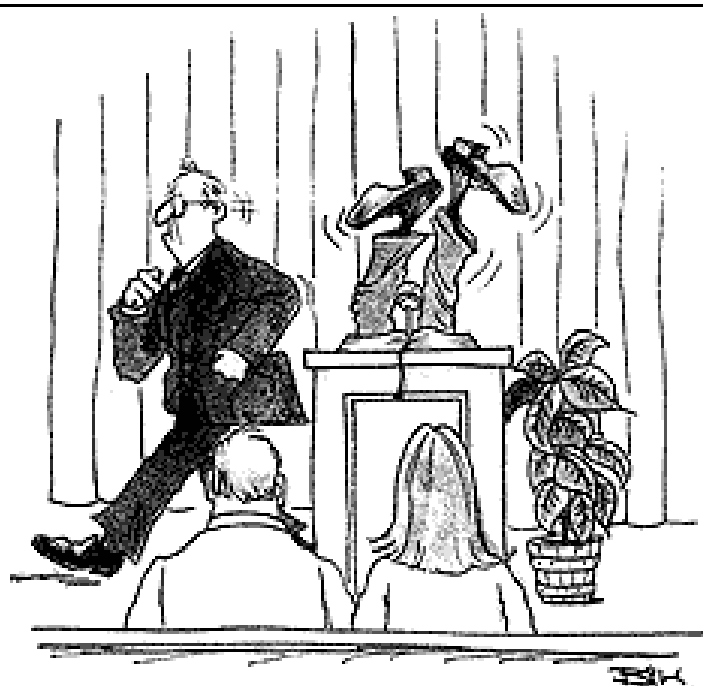
**3. We are blessed in the gathering
at the table of grace.
free to see in another's pain
the face of Jesus here today.** *Refrain*

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.



Today's unfortunate incident would mark the last time Pastor Strickland would use Brother Ed Messman's name in a sermon illustration.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte Owen Young
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 19

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Creed White
Altar Care Helen Crown
Communion Assistant Sue Kaufmann
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
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