

September 21st, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for coffee after the service. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Class at 11:00am.

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS

There are more than 2,300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. In fact, out of all the masters competing for our service besides God, money is probably at the top of the list. Money provides us with a false comfort and sense of security. Money serves as a source of pride. This week, Jesus' sharp words identify the impossibility of serving more than one master. More, Jesus teaches that if we dedicate our lives in service to money, money will always let us down. In contrast, God has proven that he is a master worth serving. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of it being a master to serve, it becomes a tool in our service of our true Master.

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

ECCLESIASTES 5:10–20

¹⁰Whoever loves money never has enough;
 whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.
 This too is meaningless.

¹¹As goods increase,
 so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
 except to feast their eyes on them?

¹²The sleep of a laborer is sweet,
 whether they eat little or much,
but as for the rich, their abundance
 permits them no sleep.
¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:

wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,
 ¹⁴or wealth lost through some misfortune,
so that when they have children
 there is nothing left for them to inherit.

¹⁵Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,
 and as everyone comes, so they depart.
They take nothing from their toil
 that they can carry in their hands.

¹⁶This too is a grievous evil:
As everyone comes, so they depart,
 and what do they gain,
 since they toil for the wind?

¹⁷All their days they eat in darkness,
 with great frustration, affliction and anger.

¹⁸This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

128A Blest Are All Who Fear the LORD

Psalm 128A



1 How blest are those who fear the LORD, who find in
 2 The prom - ise of suc - cess shall be up - on their
 3 What am - ple fruit is seen in lives of faith - ful
 4 From heav - en God will sure - ly bless such un - ions
 5 To God the Fa - ther and the Son and Ho - ly



God their great re - ward: they know a Love for
 work con - tin - ual - ly, as all they do shall
 hus - bands and their wives; each home with joy and
 with his faith - ful - ness, with boun - ti - ful pros -
 Spir - it Three in One, be glo - ry, laud and



all their days, they glad - ly walk in god - ly ways—
 pros - per well and in con - tent - ed peace they dwell—
 love a - bounds as chil - dren's laugh - ter in them sounds—
 per - i - ty till chil - dren's chil - dren they shall see—
 end - less praise, both now and through e - ter - nal days—



blest are all who fear the LORD.
 A - - - men.

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SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 6:6–10,17–19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

LUKE 16:1–13

¹Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶“ ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. ⁹I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy

in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

¹³“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN: ALL DEPENDS ON OUR POSSESSING

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SERMON

LUKE 16:1–13

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

Offering (*At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

Be seated

HYMN: GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

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Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN: TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

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