

The Unjust Steward



The
Lessons
of the
Parable

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

WORSHIP FOCUS: Disciples of our Lord Jesus share many qualities. We share a wisdom which comes down from above, the enlightenment of faith. That wisdom that comes by faith is manifest in how we manage God's blessings.

LITURGY: Service of Morning Praise

CW pg. 45

OPENING HYMN: *CW 483*

"Lord of All Good"

STEWARDSHIP

483

Lord of All Good



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring you now;
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand your ways;
3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;



Use them your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great de - sign;
Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;



To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
Hearts with the flame of your own love a - blaze—
Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:



That our whole life is of - fered to your will.
Thus for your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.
To you with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt. © Albert F. Bayly. All rights reserved.
Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

Tune: FARLEY CASTLE (10 10 10 10) Henry Lawes, 1595–1662.

STAND



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: (Advent) Behold the _____ King comes: let us wor - ship him.
 (Christmas) Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.
 (Epiphany) The glory of Christ _____ is re - vealed: let us wor - ship him.
 (Lent) Behold the _____ Lamb of God: let us wor - ship him.
 (Easter) The Lord is _____ ris - en: let us wor - ship him.
 (Pentecost) The Spirit of the Lord _____ fills the world: let us wor - ship him.
 (General) Praise be to God, the Father,
 the Son, and the Holy _____ Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.

BE SEATED



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are

in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he
made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and
bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:5-10

⁵Then you will respond and say in the presence of the LORD your God, “My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt and lived there as an alien with just a few people, but there he became a great, strong, and populous nation. ⁶The Egyptians mistreated and afflicted us. They imposed hard labor on us. ⁷We cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and he saw our affliction, our labor, and oppression. ⁸The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with great awe-inspiring acts and signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now, look as I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you have given me, LORD.” Then set the basket down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. (EHV)



Praise the LORD from the heavens,*
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,*
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

¹Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: ²In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. ³I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, ⁴pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. ⁵And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. ⁶As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. ⁷But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich. (EHV)

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Questions for self-study:

- What were the economic circumstances of the Macedonians?
- How could they participate in the offering under such circumstances?
- What did the Macedonians do when they heard Paul was collecting an offering for the saints in Jerusalem?
- How far did the Macedonians stretch themselves in order to participate in this offering?
- Why did these believers respond as they did?
- Paul notes that the Corinthians excelled in many things. List those things for which Paul commends them.

For personal reflection:

- *How does my desire and practice of giving to the Lord for his work compare to that of the Macedonian Christians?*
- *What has God's grace done for me?*
- *Can we disconnect our offerings from our love for the Lord and say they're not related? How do our offerings reflect the sincerity of our love?*
- *How did Jesus reveal his love for us in the supreme act of giving?*
- *What steps can I personally take to show my appreciation for God's grace?*
- *What commitment can I make to grow in his grace?*
- *Are our offerings always the best indicator of our love's sincerity? Are there other better indicators?*

STEWARDSHIP

482

Forgive Us, Lord



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
 2 Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace,
 3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
 4 O - pen our eyes to see your love's in - tent,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
 For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
 For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds.
 To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.



For songs of praise for world - ly wealth - i - ness,
 For Christ, your Son, and for each hu - man face
 For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways,
 Let thank - ful days in lov - ing la - bor spent



While of your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware.
 That shows your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
 Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs.
 Re - flect the tru - ly Christ - like life and light.

Text: William W. Reid Sr., 1890–1983, alt. © 1965, Renewed 1993 by The Hymn Society
 (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: SURSUM CORDA (10 10 10 10) Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971. © 1990 Historic Church of the Ascension,
 Atlantic City, NJ. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. Alleluia.

Sermon Text and Theme:**Luke 16:1-16**

16 Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. ²The 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.’ ³“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. ⁴I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’ ⁵“He called each

one of his master's debtors to him. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He said, 'Six hundred gallons of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.' ⁷ 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.' ⁸ "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 are. ⁹ I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous *mammon*, so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous *mammon*, who will entrust you with what is really valuable? ¹² If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? ¹³ 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*." ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, also heard all these things and sneered at him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of people, but God knows your hearts. In fact, what is highly regarded among people is an abomination in God's sight. ¹⁶ The Law and the Prophets were until John. Since that time the good news of the kingdom of God is proclaimed, and everyone is trying to force his way into it. (EHV)

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Pastor: Dear Savior, we thank you for the privilege of participating in the spread of your gospel and the work of building up your kingdom.

Cong: Everything I have is a trust from you. I am a steward of your blessings. I can call nothing my own. I place all things: my body and soul, my life, my possessions, my time and my abilities, into your hands for your service.

Silence for meditation as we renew our personal dedication to the Lord.

Pastor: Lord, let your grace in us abound. Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit, the fruit of righteousness.

Cong: Let my life be made complete in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Pastor: Lead us into your word of truth. Help us to delight in your word, to use your word, to learn your word, to find comfort in your word, and to share your word.

Cong: Faith comes from hearing the message. Renew my thirst for your righteousness. Give me a craving for the things of God. I commit myself to growing in your grace, by your Spirit's power.

Silence for meditation as we renew our commitment to learning God's Word.

Pastor: Gracious Master, our hearts are dominated by thoughts and attitudes that are sinful and wrong. We are motivated to serve ourselves in pride and greed. Touch our hearts with your love. Show us your grace. Lead us to respond in humility and thanksgiving.

Cong: I know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for my sake he became poor, so that I through his poverty might become rich. May the precious truth of your free salvation move me to generous and thankful living. Let me praise you here and glorify your name for all eternity.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth. In your mercy hear our prayers and grant us your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n, cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n-ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry." The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a clear cadence at the end of each line.

C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,
Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
heav'n-ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry.

The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of
proph-ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of
glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to
set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the
sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.
You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of
your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



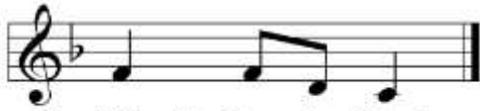
C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

STEWARDSHIP

485

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, What - e'er
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus As stew -
 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes
 4 To com - fort and to bless, To find
 5 The cap - tives to re - lease, To God



the gift may be; All that we have is
 ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as thou
 are bare and cold, And lambs for whom the
 a balm for woe, To tend the lone and
 the lost to bring, To teach the way of



thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.
 bless - est us, To thee our first - fruits give.
 shep - herd bled Are stray - ing from the fold.
 fa - ther - less, Is an - gels' work be - low.
 life and peace— It is a Christ - like thing.



Officiants

Accompanist: Kayla Liechty

Liturgist: Pastor Greg Sitzman

Preacher: Pastor Mike Hatzung

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Ross Ulrich: 734-240-3888; rwulrich@zionmonroe.org

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

OVER ABUNDANCE TABLE: In the west foyer is a table for anyone who has extra vegetables from their gardens and doesn't know what to do with the extra items. Everyone is welcome to add or take from the table. Please enjoy the bounties of the harvest.

THE BOARD OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP - We are planning on having another Fellowship luncheon on Sunday, October 9 at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker for this presentation will be Marion Yoas. There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer so we can plan an accurate count for the luncheon.

THE BOARD OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP is planning to hold a marriage retreat in March 17-19, 2023. WELS Pastor Randy Hunter will lead the discussions. We would start on Friday evening and run through Sunday at noon. A worship service will be conducted on Sunday morning. We need to get an approximate number of persons who would attend. If you sign up, it does not mean you are locked into attending. We are trying to make the best arrangements for rooms and meeting rooms. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Vagt.

NEWS FROM MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY:

MLS JR. POMS FALL CLINIC: The MLS Jr. Cardinal Poms Fall Clinic is scheduled for October 9, 2022! The clinic is for girls from K-5th grade in a WELS/ELS church or school. Visit www.mlsem.org/jrpoms to register. **Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** (Registration 1:30 p.m.)

Registration Fee: \$35 Each participant will receive: T-Shirt*, Hairbow or Set of poms, Light Snack. There will be a joint performance with the MLS poms team at halftime of the MLS varsity football game on Friday night, October 14. **Deadline to register is September 25 at midnight.** * *Because of supply chain issues if you miss the deadline we will not be able to get you a shirt.*

MLS OPEN HOUSE: Michigan Lutheran Seminary invites all 5th-8th grade students and their families to spend part of a day on campus learning about MLS at one of our Open House events. There will be several open houses throughout the school year. All open houses will include a tour of campus, faculty introductions, a free meal in the dining hall, and free admission to an MLS event.

- Oct 14 (1:30-5:30) - Varsity football game vs. Burton-Bendle
- Nov 20 (4:00-6:00) - Fall Play performance @ 2:30 (Open House after show)
- Feb 10 (1:30-5:30) - Varsity basketball games vs. Nouvel
- Mar 11 (4:00-6:00) - Children's Theater performances @ 2:00 and 7:00 (Open House between shows)
- May 5 (4:00-6:00) - Varsity baseball/softball games vs. Bullock Creek

Get your questions answered as you and your 6th-8th grade students meet faculty and students, attend mini-classes, and hear personal experiences from other MLS parents. Between tours and break-out sessions, you'll find out everything that makes MLS an incredibly special place for students and their families. Visit www.mlsem.org to register.

COMING UP AT ZION

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Youth Group
 No Adult Bible Class – Christian Estate Planning Seminar

Mon.-Tues. Pastor’s Conference @ Our Savior L.C., Westland

Tuesday Zion School Field Trip to Kackleberry Farms
 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Saturday Zion Soccer Tournament @ HVL

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group and Adult Bible Class

Our Fruits of Faith

At worship last week: 31+121 = 152;
 Offerings for week ending 9/18/22: General - \$4,182.00
 Missions - \$465.00

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

	Sept. 28 & Oct. 2	Oct. 5 & 9	Oct. 12 & 16	Oct. 19 & 23	Oct. 26 & 30
ALTAR GUILD			Cindy Ulrich		
LIVE STREAM HELPERS	Rob Krueger	Zach McCormick	Steve Sordahl	Miller Sordahl	Rob Krueger
USHERS	<u>Sept. 28</u> Russ Vitale Keith McBee Mark Kipf <u>Oct. 2</u> Russ Vitale Keith McBee Mark Kipf	<u>Oct. 5</u> <u>Oct. 9</u> Rob Krueger Ray Chandonnet Ralph Naveaux Erich Freiny	<u>Oct. 12 & 16</u> Tony Affholter Mark Fuerstenberg Tim Fuerstenberg	<u>Oct. 19</u> <u>Oct. 23</u> Joe Koch Joe Schmeling Dave Bengé	<u>Oct. 26</u> <u>Oct. 30</u> Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Alan Bober
COMMUNION HELPERS	Steve Sordahl		<u>Oct. 12</u> Mark Kipf <u>Oct. 16</u> Erich Freiny		

THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 25, 2022** for an informational session on Christian estate planning and tax wise Christian giving. The informational session will be conducted by Rev. Hatzung, Senior Deferred Christian giving counselor from the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving. It will take place after worship service in place of Bible Class.

Christian Estate Planning . . .

is taking care of your loved ones.

Are you looking for new stewardship opportunities? If you are, then consider an arrangement in which you can give a gift for the Lord's work and still provide a lifetime income for your family members.

Watch the church bulletin for details regarding our upcoming Christian estate planning seminar. Please plan to attend!

Here are some of the benefits of a life income arrangement:

- A gift to the Lord, the Giver of all.
- In many cases, an increase in your income.
- The security of a lifetime income for you and your spouse or child.
- Regular income checks.
- In some cases, current as well as deferred tax benefits.
- Peace of mind.

Our church is sponsoring a Christian estate planning seminar. Come and learn about the benefits of a life income agreement or receive assistance with your Christian estate plan.

You will also have an opportunity to schedule a private consultation with a Christian giving counselor to have your questions answered. This is a service offered by our synod. It is confidential, and there is no cost to you.