



## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2020

**AS WE GATHER:** Who knew that when 2020 arrived, it would be the year that it has been? Who could have seen it? In our new sermon series, “2020 Vision,” we will focus clearly on the core values of our church and school, namely, Worship, Christian Education, Missions, Stewardship, Biblical Truth, and Christian Service. Sometimes these things can become blurry, out of focus, and misunderstood. Join us as we put on our “Biblical eyeglasses” and clearly see what we, as God’s people, are to be doing as the Body of Christ in this world.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN #782 *“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”*

1            Gracious God, You send great blessings  
              New each morning all our days.  
              For Your mercies never ending,  
              For Your love we offer praise. Refrain

Refrain: Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
              Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
              Through the sharing of Your blessings  
              May bring glory to Your name.

2            By Your Word You formed creation  
              Filled with creatures large and small;  
              As we tend that endless treasure  
              May our care encircle all. Refrain

3            In His earthly life, our Savior  
              Knew the care of faithful friends;  
              May our deeds of dedication  
              Offer love that never ends. Refrain

4            Heav’nly Father, may our caring  
              Bear the imprint of Your grace;  
              With the Son and Holy Spirit,  
              Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! Refrain

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 34

Pastor: I will bless the LORD at all times;

People: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Pastor: My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

People: Let the humble hear and be glad.

Pastor: Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

People: And let us exalt his name together!

Pastor: Those who look to Him are radiant,

People: And their faces shall never be ashamed.

Pastor: The angel of the LORD encamps

People: Around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Pastor: Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

People: Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow His guidance, and our reluctance to bear the cross. We acknowledge that we are by nature sinful and unclean and know in our hearts that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Forgive us for all that is amiss in our lives, as we continually break Your commands. Forgive us that we have not always been fruitful plantings in Your vineyard.

People: Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE SONG OF PRAISE      *“Neither Death Nor Life”*  
Voices of Praise  
Congregation join in on refrain

Refrain:      Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
Nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
Can ever separate us from the love of God  
Poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse

Dwell in the One who raised Christ from the dead;  
Though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise  
Through the Spirit who brings you to life.

Refrain

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
Nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
Can ever separate us from the love of God  
Poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse

All who are led by the Spirit shall live  
As children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus,  
God’s adopted and chosen and loved.

Refrain

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
Nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
Can ever separate us from the love of God  
Poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine,  
Or nakedness or peril or sword?

Refrain

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
Nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
Neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
Can ever separate us from the love of God  
Poured out in Christ Jesus our Lord.



**EPISTLE**

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. <sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.<sup>4</sup> For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup> Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)**

**All:** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:14-30

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew; the twenty-fifth chapter.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

*<sup>14</sup> "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew*

*you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

VIDEO “What is Stewardship?”

SERMON 2020 Vision: Stewardship  
Pastor Adam Wolfe

**HYMN OF THE DAY (Please stand)**

#851

*“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”*

- 1 Lord of glory, You have bought us  
With Your lifeblood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones  
That tremendous sacrifice;  
And with that have freely given  
Blessings countless as the sand  
To the unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.
  
- 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You  
Gladly, freely of Your own.  
With the sunshine of Your goodness  
Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
Till our cold and selfish natures,  
Warmed by You, at length believe  
That more happy and more blessed  
'Tis to give than to receive.

- 3        Wondrous honor You have given  
              To our humblest charity  
              In Your own mysterious sentence,  
              “You have done it all to Me.”  
              Can it be, O gracious Master,  
              That You deign for alms to sue,  
              Saying by Your poor and needy,  
              “Give as I have giv’n to you”?
- 4        Lord of glory, You have bought us  
              With Your lifeblood as the price,  
              Never grudging for the lost ones  
              That tremendous sacrifice.  
              Give us faith to trust You boldly,  
              Hope, to stay our souls on You;  
              But, oh, best of all Your graces,  
              With Your love our love renew.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the  
              Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD**

##### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:        Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus  
                          Christ and for all people according to their needs.**

**For the whole Christian community around the  
                          world that, as people united in faith, we are  
                          emboldened to witness to the good news that is  
                          ours in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.**

**People:        Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** For all nations of the earth, that there be times of peace; for our own nation that it would seek to bring that which is good and God-pleasing; and for our own communities and neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For faithfulness to carry out our callings with faithfulness, living each day with hope and confidence as we await the time of the great and glorious final harvest, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the management of all of Your gifts, Father, that we might show forth Your glory and grace through our personal stewardship in our lives, that we might be generous toward others, faithful in our support of Your ministries, and gracious to all who stand in need of our help.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the needs that are specially known to us at this time, including health and family concerns, situations of disability or bereavement, and the changes that are part of human life. With assurance that our petitions are heard, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** With thanks to You for all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and who serve to inspire us in our times, we bless You, abiding Lord. Confident that our prayers and petitions are heard and that all which is best for us is done according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.



## LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN #894 *"For the Fruits of His Creation"*

- 1 For the fruits of His creation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For His gifts to ev'ry nation,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
Thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.