

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31st, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

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Prayer: O Almighty and most merciful God, of Your bountiful goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish whatever things You want done; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Mark 8: 13-21 Wednesday: Cor. 6: 19-20 Friday: Rom. 12: 1-2
Tuesday: Jas. 3: 1-10 Thursday: Mark 9: 43-50 Saturday: 1 Cor. 9: 24-27

SCRIPTURE MEMORY MOMENTS: We all agree how important it is for each of us (no matter our age) to know and even be trying to memorize scripture. Each week we will have a short video helping us memorize one verse from the Gospel readings of the week. Feel free to share this with others.

For this Sunday: Luke 12:15b <https://youtu.be/0UZD3wKWGWE>

SCRIPTURE MEMORY MOMENTS: A fun way to help with memorization is to use ‘sign language’.

This week’s focus is on learning to ‘sign’ the Lord’s Prayer. There are 3 separate videos to help you learn it step by step. PART 1: <https://youtu.be/I92GIwSPOs>
PART 2: <https://youtu.be/k8vy2IPuQGg>
PART 3: <https://youtu.be/u2OoDacXTsw>

Musician: 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz
Reader: 10 a.m. – Chris Mason
Greeter: 10 a.m. – Christina & David Coghlan

YOU ARE INVITED: Former members and friends are invited to honor Pastor Ray Kirk as he celebrates 50 years in the ministry. He was ordained at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Beamsville. A special service at Emmanuel with Pastor Kirk officiating will be held on **Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 11 a.m.** with a potluck to follow.

Last Sunday Attendance: July 24th, 2022 Attn: 10 a.m. – 82					
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (–)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	2,016.40	119,750.16	(38,239.05)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	342.50	8,632.00	(2,521.85)
Property Improvement:			146.50	3,977.00	

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryll Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lceeast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.

CREATIVE SERVICE OF THE WORD BRAZILIAN MELODY
THE 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 31, 2022 + 10 AM service

OPENING HYMN:

"Day of Delight"

hymnary.org/hymn/ACS2020/page/933



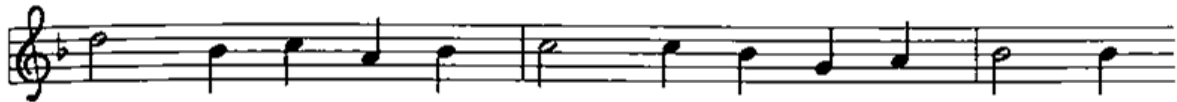
1 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
2 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel



spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ



ris - en from the dead! Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -
ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;
danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry:



sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the
sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of



stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in
fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor



wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!
last - ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939; © 2011 GIA Pub. Music: *In Dir Ist Freude* PM [*In Thee Is Gladness* melody]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

Amen.

O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive our poverty of worship, our neglect of fellowship and the Sacraments of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive us that so little of You love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, grudging in reconciling, unwilling to help all in need:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, O God:

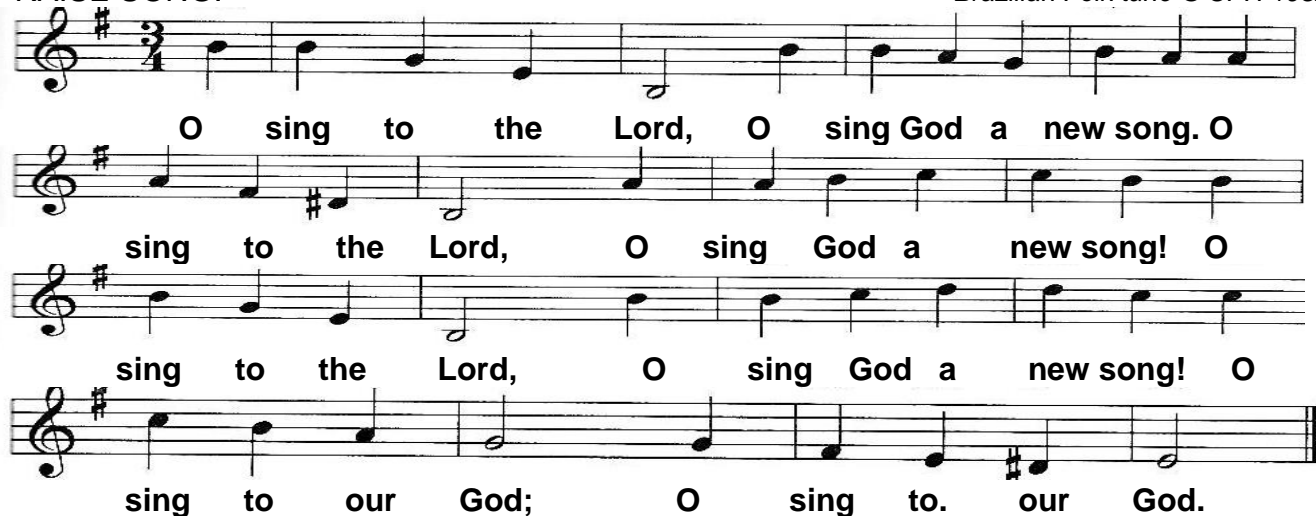
According to Your never-ending love, blot out our sins, wash us through and through from sinful stains, creating clean hearts in us, with new and right spirits. Amen.

With mercy and compassion, our Father in Heaven saves you. The Light of the promised Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace. And so in the place of Jesus Christ and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAISE SONG:

Brazilian Folk tune © CPH 1982



O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O
sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song! O
sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song! O
sing to our God; O sing to our God.

**For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!
For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!
For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

**For Christ is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Christ is the Lamb! Amen! Alleluia!
For Christ is the Rock! Amen! Alleluia!
O, sing to our God, O sing to our God.**

*©Text: Psalm 98; adapt. G. Cartford, b. 1923
Tune: Brazilian folk song*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Let us pray to the Lord – **Lord, please hear us:**

Almighty God, You are always more ready to hear that we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour out upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23*

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity...I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind....I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Colossians 3:1-11*

[St. Paul writes:] So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG GOSPEL VERSE

Sing Al -- le -- lu -- ia! To Whom shall we go, Lord? Sing
Al -- le -- lu -- ia! Your Words bring new life, Lord! Sing
Al -- le -- lu -- ia! We've come to be - lieve You -- as
Ho -- ly of God - Sing Al -- le -- lu -- ia!

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 12:13-21*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

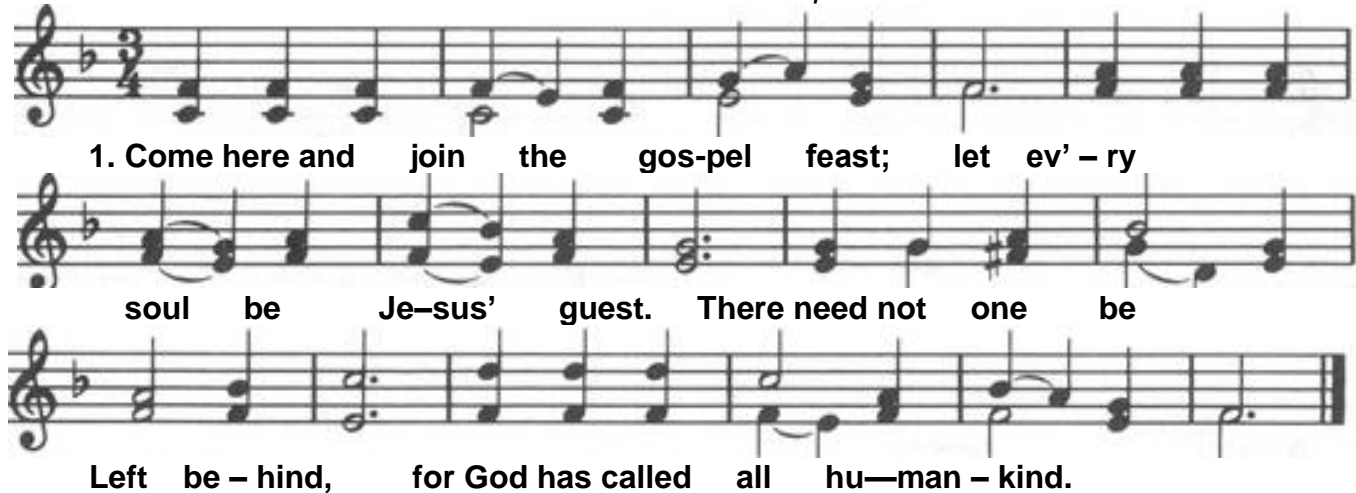
Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And Jesus said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do

this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ!**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED: 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. On 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.

GOSPEL SONG: *“Come Here And Join The Gospel Feast”*



1. Come here and join the gos-pel feast; let ev' - ry
soul be Je-sus' guest. There need not one be
Left be - hind, for God has called all hu-man - kind.

2. Sent by my Lord, on you I call; the invitation is to all.
Come, all the world! Come, here and bow!
All things in Christ are ready now.

3. Come, all you souls by sin oppress'd, you restless wand'ers after rest;
you poor, and hurt, and worn, and blind,
in Christ a hearty welcome find.

5. This is the time, no more delay! This is the Lord's triumphant day.
Come now, find joy within His Hall,
and live for Him who died for all.

*Charles Wesley 1707-1788 – Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch; adapt. From Metrical Psalter
Tune: HURSLEY, Meter: LM*

MESSAGE

OFFERING SONG:

“My Worth Is Not In What I Own”



1. My worth is not in what I own; not
(2. My) worth is not in skill or name; in



in the strength of flesh and bone. But in the cost - ly wounds of love at the
win or lose, in pride or shame. But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the



cross.
cross.

2. My
4. I

I re-joyce in my Re -



-deem - er. Great - est treas - ure, well-spring of my soul. I will trust in Him, no



D.S.

oth - er; my soul is sat - is - fied in Him a - lone.

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OFFERINGS *are gathered*

WE PRAY

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for the abundant blessings of body and soul you give us each day, without our asking. Thank you that our life rests securely in Christ, our greatest wealth, and not in earthly possessions or even earthly life.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Forgive us Lord for being greedy, and for placing our trust in wealth and possessions. Heal the hurt and division that greed has caused, free us from all worry, and renew us each day with the self-sacrificing mind of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Bless all people in their proper work, and give us joy by knowing that the good we do serves you by serving others. Remove exploitation and bitterness from the work place, and give work to those who are unemployed.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Generously teach and assist us to use our possessions wisely, by offering them back to you through helping other people treasure the Gospel and their daily bread;

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Guide the leaders of our nation so that they may use the resources of this land and its people for the good of all. Teach the wealthy to be generous, turn all driven by greed away from their idolatry, and free people who are addicted to gambling.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, we pray for your church, that it may not store up riches on earth but riches in heaven. Give it a clear message of forgiveness and new life through Christ in an age of greed and death, and turn those who put their trust in earthly possessions to seek the true riches that come from you.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Thank you for the cooperation and fellowship we enjoy in this congregation, bless all who are generous here with their time and talents, and watch over all people that we receive your salvation and acknowledge your generosity to us.

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

We pray for the poor, dear Father, that they would receive all they need for good life. Bring the dying to place their life into your hands for Jesus' sake. And meet the needs of all we know personally to be in want [especially....] and whom we now name silently in our hearts...

*Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

God our Father, pour out on us the great and generous riches of your grace and mercy, and hear our prayers for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

BLESSING:

Go out into the world in peace; take good courage, hold fast to what is good; strengthen the weak, honour all, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing always.

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"



We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord;



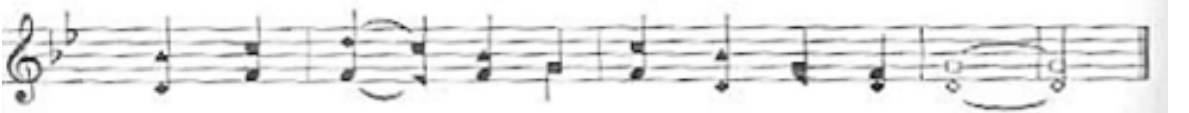
We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord;



And we pray faith-ful un-i-ty will one day be re - stored.



Chorus: And they'll know we are Christ-ians by our love, by our love,



yes, they'll know we are Christ-ians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll show the truth that Christ is in our land.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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REV. TODD HOEFFS

Pentecost 8

Luke 12:13-21

July 31, 2022

“What do you give to the person who has everything?”

Well. The quick answer is: Nothing. If they have it all, what’s left to give?

You know the type. They buy themselves things all the time.

Like the man described by Jesus in His story today. He has everything – or so he thinks.

Jesus is illustrating that having things is sometimes not as big of a problem as just simply wanting things. A voice coming from the crowd of people around Jesus wants his perceived rightful half of an inheritance. This “voice” knows who Jesus is. Calls Him “teacher”.

The question is relevant to ancient world middle-eastern family inheritance.

Usually it’s divided among the siblings, especially the male siblings. Jesus can give a judgement.

Yet Jesus claims no such authority to judge this money matter. Not that it’s insignificant, but the intent of the voice in the crowd is his wanting. “Watch out,” He says. “Be on your guard against all covetousness.” Hmm...is that person coveting? Jesus obviously sees the heart and knows the question isn’t about fairness, but favour. Coveting is a problem.

The original Greek Luke uses to write this literally means– holding onto more.

Like when you carry too much because you’re in a hurry and things start to drop.

You have already. But you want more and more and more....The ancient Greek culture called attributed coveting as jealousy – and such people were looked upon as parasites.

Users. Freeloaders. Wanting more is not only about grabbing, but imagining more, dreaming of more, craving more. Sometimes when we want things so badly that we get upset when we don’t have them. Coveting FIXATES on the thing, and at times can lose perspective and just get caught up in the wanting. Contentment is the opposite of coveting. Contentment is a gift of God, a trait of thankfulness and gratitude. It’s as important as peace.

Contentment is healthy – allows us to grow. Contentment helps us model kindness and sharing.

Part of our calling as the baptized Body of Christ is living contented lives.

Contentment is based on trust which comes from faith And the memory of God’s goodness – which soothes the wanting more. Because fear is at the heart of coveting. So Jesus’ story points to a rich man whose ground produces plentifully. PLOUTOS is the Greek word for rich.

Like WDW dog PLUTO! PLOUTOS is the Greek god of wealth and farm growth!

Very fitting for the story. The Rich man’s crops grew so over abundantly they didn’t fit into his barns. He doesn’t build extra. Or extensions. No, he tears them down and builds bigger ones.

Wasteful, extravagant, arrogant and unnecessary. And notice the way the rich man speaks—

He talks to himself as if his own person is someone else? [his own self is mentioned 12 times!!!]

His self is disjointed from reality. His persona is divorced from his own neighbours and community.

He is not even selfish any longer – He is fully owned and consumed by his possessions and wealth.

Possessions, riches and money aren’t the problem. We need to remember that.

The high value we and all people place upon these things is the problem.

Numbers don’t lie, but money does. Money and things tell us -- “If you lose me, you lose a very large part of your life. If you lose me, you lose what life can be for you.

I am your life. Do you realize how big I am? Life will be *real* life — truly life — if you have me.”

That's what the voice from the crowd is truly asking –

The inheritance HE WANTS, like the rich man's abundance.

Such things fight for 1st place in our lives and we get afraid if we don't have them.

The richest blocked out the Light of Christ, the greatest of all treasures.

Building bigger barns isn't bad either --- if you're storing the grain for a use that shows God is your treasure [by helping others eat]. But the rich guy wants to relax, eat, drink, be merry.

That's his treasure, his value. This love earns him as fool title from Jesus. Life must be defined by generosity not in craving for more. This may make us a bit uncomfortable too.

We like to relax, eat, drink, enjoy, put money into the bank. Doesn't God want us to have some fun? Can't we save up for something big? What about retirement? What about vacations?

These are all fine in and of themselves. God never begrudges His children anything.

HOW MUCH WE VALUE THESE THINGS is the issue.

Whatever pushes God away from dwelling on the throne of our heart is wrong.

No matter how important we think it might be. It can start out small and grow big and at times we're even unaware. This is why Jesus' parable also reveals how our need for security gets in the way.

With interest rates climbing, mortgages, loans increasing, Cost of living, inflation, groceries now costing \$1-\$5 more for each item – Security is a big priority. Retirement? Don't we need to save for that? And what about having money on hand for a rainy day? Truthfully, our Lord knows and understands our need for security. But when does security end and controlling of our destiny begin?

Safety verses certainty. Life in this world offers no guarantees, as the rich man proves.

His soul is taken to God and the barns of stuff mean nothing. In fact, they indict him and his fate isn't promising. If COVID has shown us anything it is that "goods laid up for many years" is a lie.

The ancient church had a saying: "The rich man did not realize that the bellies of the poor were much safer storerooms than his barns." "Safer." Not only is sharing with the poor generous and loving, but it is safer. True security trusts in God. True security believes when Jesus says we are more than what we have. Jesus supports and sustained this way of faith.

"One's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." So, what does one's life consist OF? If not riches, then...what? A richness toward God. That is, in the things of God.

What God values, we value.

1st is FAITH IN HIS SON, JESUS - - which IS a treasured gift.

2nd is LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.

Rich toward God is being Christ to others. Be as Christ in the way we treat others.

There's a vast richness in this. Kindness, mercy, compassion, humility, helping, welcoming.

Rich toward God is priceless. That contentment comes when we trust who we are when we're in God's hands. That peace soothes our worries. Love soothes our hurts. Truth soothes our wanting.

Fixating NOT on things but on what God HAS given us Sharpens our memory for His goodness over the course of our lives. Rich towards God is always knowing what He does for us every day.

That is really a richness I hope and pray others would want, too.

Christians are content. God is with us and that he has loved us abundantly. So the Spirit through God's Word daily empties us of ourselves, that we will be full of Christ. Not even God can give something to those who have everything. We slowly loosen our grip on our possessions, that Christ may free us; we stop seeing ourselves as needing more than others have, so that Christ may forgive us; we stop seeing our time as our own, so that Christ can use us.

He feeds the hungry, he forgives sinners, he strengthens the weak, He raises the dead. So we learn to see ourselves as hungry, as sinners, as weak, as dead.

All the things we think we have are *potentially* useful; but they are only *actually* useful when we let them go, share them, trust that Christ will use them to our good, to other's good and to God's glory. Keep holding on to our stuff, and we lose Jesus. Let go of wanting only our stuff, and we receive him. Then our richness toward God allows us to use earthly things to show How much we value what God values. That our will now is aligned with His will to show how much you value God.

Christ comes AS our source of LOVE when other things try and lure us away.

When voices try to shout over Jesus' voice,

He comes and stands there as our judge and arbiter.

While Satan demands our soul,

Jesus lays down His life to spare us from the traps of despair and darkness.

The blood price pays the price no amount of barns or coins could fulfill.

The Bloodied cross makes it a done deal.

ALL is forgiven. You are loved. You are valued. And what's more, you have an inheritance. Jesus has won all of us abundant life and joy and peace and contentment.

We are not only rich toward God, but we are also rich toward one another.

We can spare a listening ear.

We can do all things through Him Who is our source of strength.

Now you are all people who have everything!

Amen.