

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Pentecost 18

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Money and wealth rule in today's materialistic society. That materialistic mindset—as illustrated in today's Old Testament lesson—can affect all making one easily forget that God is the One who blessed us with many physical blessings. How we handle those blessings, however, whether they be dollars or possessions, reflects our relationship with our God.

In the Epistle lesson, Paul urges young pastor Timothy to be a faithful steward by praying for all people. Whether it's by using our wealth, "business" savvy, or prayer life, God desires we be His faithful stewards in His mission to spread the gospel.

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus points out that non-Christians often show more keen business ability and wisdom in dealing with people than Jesus' disciples show. When we fail to pull out all the stops to reach our goal of spreading the gospel, then we are like that man in dishonesty but unlike him in cleverness. Jesus desires that we be both honest and divinely shrewd in managing God's gifts to do God's work of spreading the gospel

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Divine Service, "Rite Two."

Hymns: 205 (1-6), 468, 446, 205 (7)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Amos 8:4-7. The all-seeing LORD will not forget the dishonest deeds of those who take advantage of others for greedy gain.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 38. When one's conscience plagues, the Christian trusts and turns to the LORD God, his forgiving Savior (CW pg. 81).

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Christians understand that their true worth rests in the precious blood Christ shed to pay for their sins...for the sins of all people. Therefore, Christians will offer up prayers and intercessions for the blessing of these precious, blood-bought souls, especially that they might come to faith in Jesus, and if those are governing that they do so in a God-pleasing way.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. *Alleluia...*

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13. Christ's parable of the shrewd manager teaches us to use our earthly treasures to build heavenly friendships—to support the spread of the gospel message that gives everlasting life.

Sermon: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Theme - "Practice God-Pleasing Prayer"

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Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: How does practicing honesty, when buying and selling, demonstrate our Christian faith?
- Old Testament: What is so terrifying about that statement of the LORD that "I will never forget anything they have done?"
- Epistle: Agree/Disagree – The prayer of a Christian can make a difference in the lives of people and society. (See James 4:16)
- Epistle: Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. Which passage proves this truth? (see the blue Catechism questions 173 & 175)
- Epistle: How does considering the price Jesus paid to save us help us determine our true worth?
- Gospel: The master in the parable did not praise the steward for his unfaithfulness and fraud, but for something else. For what?
- Gospel: Jesus Himself explains the point of the parable in verse 9. What is that point?
- Gospel: What's Jesus point in verses 10-13?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+Confirmation Class: Monday 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ timeofgrace.org – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

Amos 8:4-7 - Listen to this, you who trample on the needy to wipe out the oppressed from the land, who say, "When will the New Moon be over so that we can sell grain? When will the Sabbath end, so that we can open the grain bins? Then we will make the bushel smaller and make the shekel weight heavier. We will cheat with dishonest scales. We will buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. We will sell the chaff with the grain." The LORD swears by the Pride of Jacob, "I will never forget any of their deeds!" (EHV™)

1 Timothy 2:1-8 – First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all those who are in authority, in order that we might live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the

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testimony given at the proper time. For this testimony, I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I speak the truth; I am not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument. (EHV™)

Luke 16:1-13 - Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. The 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.’ “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. I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’ “He called each one of his master’s debtors to him. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He said, ‘Six hundred gallons of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.’ 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.’ “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. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous mammon, so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. 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. So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon who will entrust you with what is really valuable? If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? 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.” (EHV™)