

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 18, 2016

AS WE GATHER.....The parable in today's Gospel has one main point: how generous the master is to his very core. He has a reputation for generosity. When his unjust steward discounts everyone's bills, he doesn't assert his legal right to reverse the steward's actions; instead, he stays consistent with his reputation and generously forgives the debts. So it is with our Master, the Lord God. He is generous, providing each of us with "body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses.....clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have." We rejoice in the generosity of God. We hear God's call to use whatever wealth He entrusts to us for extending His reign—providing for the poor and supporting Gospel mission and ministry.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL.....

After the ringing of the bell, we take a few moments in silence to prepare our hearts and minds for today's worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ON GOD

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

C: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

C: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

P: to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.

C: Praise the Lord.

WE CONFESS.....

P: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to You.

C: Captive to sin, we have sinned against You , mighty God, in thought, word and deed when.....we have ignored the plight of the poor.....when our happiness is dependent upon our possessions and our wealth.....when we have failed to be generous to others. Give us hearts of change, Lord.

SONG OF CONFESSION

White As Snow

White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know,
That I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your blood,
Through the wonder of Your love,
Through faith in You
I know that I can be white as snow.
White as snow

.....AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

P: There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Your sins are as white as snow and they are forgiven.....as a servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....Lord God, Your generosity exceeds our understanding. Guide Your people to practice generosity wisely and abundantly, so that the world may catch a glimpse of Your unfathomable generosity through us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Amos 8:4-7 *A word to those who trample on the need*

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 2:1-15 Pray for all people, for God desires all to be saved

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and

became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-15 *God is generous and desires us to use the wealth He entrusts to us for the work of His kingdom*

[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money."

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

CHOIR ANTHEM Oh, What a Wonderful Name By Jay Althouse

SERMON Generosity: The Quiet Virtue

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 320 (vs. 1-4 only) O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: 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**

OFFERING

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

THE INVITATION

P: Welcome to the celebration! God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience Your presence in bread and wine.

C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 55 Great is Thy Faithfulness

**"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

**"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love.**

**"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!**

"Red Book" 10 I've Got Peace Like a River

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a
River, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a
River, I've got peace like a river in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
Ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an
Ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
Fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a
Fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.**

"Red Book" 47 Freely, Freely

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live."

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name,
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to.
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live."

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 41 Do Lord

**Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Look away beyond the blue.**

**You're my light and my salvation, I won't be afraid!
You're the stronghold of my life, by You all things were made.
Foes attack me, hassle me, but I will never fade,
For I move in the strength of the Lord.**

**Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Look away beyond the blue**

**Though a host encamp against me, I will never fear!
Even though a war surrounds me, You are always near.
One thing I have asked of you that I will seek for sure
Is to live in the house of the Lord.**

**Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Look away beyond the blue**

**You will hide me in Your shelter in the day of strife;
You'll conceal me in Your tent or set me on the height.
Now my head is lifted up above the storms of night,
So I'll sing to the name of the Lord.**

**Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Look away beyond the blue**

**Glory be to God the Father and to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit, ever Three in one.
As it was in the beginning, till our race is won
We can live in the light of the Lord.**

**Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Do Lord, O do, Lord, O do remember me!
Look away beyond the blue**

[DISMISSAL](#)