

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10 & 13, 2024

Followers of Christ Maintain Proper Priorities

Opening Hymn	633, "Speak, O Lord"
Order of Service (<u>From Supplement</u>)	Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11
Prayer of the Day: Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us forsake all trust in earthly gain and find in you our heavenly treasure; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.	
FIRST READING	
Psalm of the Day (<u>On Insert</u>).....	Psalm 90D (vv. 1 & 2)
SECOND READING	
Gospel Acclamation Verse: Alleluia. <i>For the word of God is alive and active. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.</i> Alleluia.	
GOSPEL	
Hymn of the Day	560, "Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ"
SERMON.....	"What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?" Mark 10:17-27
Offering Hymn	717 v. 2, "What Is the World to Me"
Apostles' Creed	Page 20
Prayers/Lord's Prayer	
Hymn	807, "All Depends on Our Possessing"
Closing Prayer/Benediction	
Closing Hymn	514 vv. 1 & 2, "You Are the Way; through You Alone"

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:14-27

The prophet Elisha's servant, Gehazi, prioritized riches over his walk with God.

So he went down and dipped in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a small child, and he was clean. Then he and his whole escort went back to the man of God. He stood in front of Elisha and said, "To be sure, now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now accept a gift from your servant." But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord lives, in whose presence I stand, I will not take anything." Even though Na'aman urged him to accept something, he refused. Then Na'aman said, "If you do not want anything, please give me, your servant, as much dirt as two donkeys can carry, for your servant will never again burn incense or sacrifice to other gods, but only to the Lord. But may the Lord forgive your servant this one thing: When my master goes into the house of Rimmon to bow down there and he supports himself on my arm, then I too have to bow down in the house of Rimmon. When I bow down in the house of Rimmon, may the Lord forgive your servant this one thing." Then Elisha said to him, "Go in peace."

When Na'aman had gone some distance from him, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "My master was too easy on this Aramean, Na'aman, when he did not accept anything that he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him." So Gehazi chased after Na'aman. When Na'aman saw him running after him, he got down from his chariot to meet him. He said, "Is everything all right?" Then Gehazi said, "Yes, everything is all right. My master sent me to say, 'Look, just now two young men from the hill country of Ephraim, from the sons of the prophets, have come to me. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing.' Na'aman said, 'Certainly! Take two talents!' He urged Gehazi and tied up the two talents of silver in two bags with the two sets of clothing. Then Na'aman gave them to his two servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. When he came to the hill, he took the gifts from them. Then he hid them in the house and sent the men back, so they left. Then he went in and attended his master. Elisha said to him, "Where were you, Gehazi?" Gehazi said, "Your servant didn't go anywhere." Then Elisha said to him, "Didn't my heart go along when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take silver, or to accept clothing or olive groves or vineyards or sheep or cattle or male and female servants? Na'aman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever." Then Gehazi went out from his presence, leprous like snow.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-13

God's Word is like a sword. It cuts through our pretensions and pride and exposes our true priorities.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from him, but everything is uncovered and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we will give an account.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-27

Jesus helps a young man see a problem deeper than his failure to keep God's law perfectly—that he prioritized his wealth above the call to follow Christ.

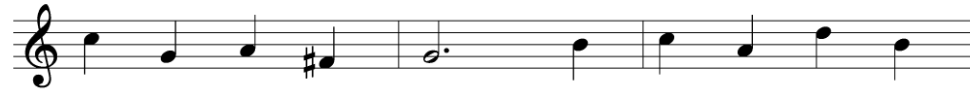
As Jesus was setting out on a journey, one man ran up to him and knelt in front of him. He asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God. You know the commandments. 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.'" The man replied, "Teacher, I have kept all these since I was a child." Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack. Go, sell whatever you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he looked sad and went away grieving, because he had great wealth.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus told them again, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in their riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." They were even more astonished and said to one another, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For people, it is impossible, but not for God, because all things are possible for God."

90D O God, Our Help in Ages Past *Psalm 90D sts. 1-2*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is your



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.

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