

Pentecost 8

August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 13 (Year C)

A life lived without God at the center is an empty life indeed. We may have enough grain to fill multiple barns and silos, but if we are rich in possessions and poor toward God, then all is in vain. The Christian life is characterized by seeking the things of Christ, not the things of this world. Only the things of God offer us new life and life abundant. We are warned to guard against the idolatry of possessions.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14: 2:18-26

All is Vanity

The Teacher proclaimed that all is vanity and chasing after the wind. To apply the intellect to the creation or to seek out wisdom apart from God are foolishness. The Teacher proclaimed his disdain for that which he worked so hard for because he had to leave it for the next person who came along. There was no time to enjoy it.

Psalm 100

Make a Joyful Noise

The Lord is God and deserving of our worship and praise. The psalmist gave thanks for God’s steadfast love, for creating humanity and all that exists. Come into his presence singing a joyful song, the poet instructed.

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11

Seek the Things Above

St. Paul continued to encourage his friends in Colossae, urging them to set their minds on the things of Christ who raised them. He called them to put to death that which was within them that was “earthly.” Those were the ways of their old life, but their new life is in Christ, who is all in all.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:13-21

Guard Against Greed

A person from the crowd asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the family inheritance with him. Jesus responded in surprise because it was not his business to decide such matters. Instead, He told a parable about a rich man with abundant crops on his land. The man built more and more barns to house his harvest but failed to be attentive to God.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is green.
- * The Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise may be used during Ordinary Time.
- * Use the Apostles’ Creed.
- * Consider a message in the bulletin today about the dangers of greed and how elusive and subtle it can be in our lives. For an in-depth look at the subject, see the article by Ricardo Willy Rieth in “Harvesting Martin Luther’s Reflections on Theology, Ethics, and the Church” by Timothy J. Wengert. Google Books has most of the pages of this section that you can read for free. (Look at page 152 to begin.) Highlights include Luther’s view of greed as a lack of faith which causes us to create injustice and is a form of idolatry.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	327	---	761	623	226	226
In Christ There is No East or West	359	---	653	650	---	---
God of Grace, God of Glory	415	---	850	705	---	---
All Depends on Our Possessing	447	---	732	589	194	194
Take My Life, and Let it Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken	358	---	648	647	3	3
We Give Thee But Thine Own	510	---	781	686	42	42
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
My Life Flows on in Endless Song	---	781	---	763	253	253
Son of God, Eternal Savior	364	---	842	655	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
Seek Ye First (CCLI# 1352)
Relentless (CCLI# 6428743)
Trading My Sorrows (CCLI# 2574653)
You Are My All In All (CCLI# 825356)
Seed Scattered and Sown (CCLI# 1187639)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.