

only marvel at his grace and goodness, that he would even give us those things which he knows we are tempted to treasure more than we treasure him.

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰ “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

Sermon Hymn: 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Sermon: Our Mission Is Possible

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Hand Bells: *Jesus Loves Me, Jesus Loves Me*

Distribution Hymn: 390 Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Saturday Only 390 v. 6

Sunday (Performed by Hand Bells): *Onward Cristian Soldiers*

Ushers: This Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow
Next Week – Jesse Horta & Zack Vogel

Greeters: This Week – Richard & Shirley Pfeifer
Next Week – Kevin & Holly Broedlow

Mission Sunday

October 13 & 14, 2018



Welcome You!

Order of Worship: pg. 26

Hand Bells: *The Wideness of God's Love*

Opening Hymn: 421 All Depends On Our Possessing

Prayer of the Day:

M: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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 5:6, 7, 10-15

The worship of money and the pleasure it could buy were among the chief sins that Amos denounced. "Seek the Lord and live!" The pursuit of wealth and the ease it can buy will not give life. Quite to the contrary, with wealth as the goal of life, life is forfeit and swept away by the God who gives life and wealth and who will not endure the insult of having the gift worshipped in place of the Giver. But the days are evil. We have two cars and two houses, two boats and a new this and that whenever we want it. Or we covet those things if we do not have them. So common is the idolatry that we do not recognize it. It is part of our culture and is woven into the fabric of the consumer society. Strict and severe is the pronouncement of the Lord and sharp as can be is the contrast: "Hate evil, love good ... Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy!" May we not go away sad, but longing for his mercy. Rather let us go with a new appreciation of his generosity in giving wealth and in his far greater generosity in showing mercy when we turn to seek him and his grace!

⁶ Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. ⁷ You who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground ¹¹ You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ¹³ Therefore the prudent man keeps quiet in such times, for the times are evil. ¹⁴ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 90 p. 99 - Pastor will sing the verses – Congregation will sing the refrain and the Glory Be.

Second Lesson - Hebrews 3:1-6

How will we resist the glitter of gold and the honey taste of luxury, pleasure and ease that so easily become gods and drive all thought of bearing the cross? "Fix your thoughts on Jesus!" In him we have not things nor fleeting pleasure nor pointless ease. In him we have one whose thoughts are constantly fixed on us as he bears his cross before his Father's throne and intercedes for us. It is He who has won for us an eternal home in heaven in spite of our wandering and our foolish misplaced priorities. Therefore let us learn to be content even as we do the labor necessary for our brief pilgrimage here on earth. Let us see that labor as a means to other ends, i.e., the support of our family, of those in need and of the work of the Church. He will, as he has in the past, see to it that we have enough and often more than enough to carry out those God given responsibilities.

¹Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. Alleluia. (Isaiah 25:9b)

Grades 5 – 8: We Are Singing (Siyahamba)

Gospel - Mark 10:17-27

This is the context: God's gifts to us of wealth more than most of his other gifts can become snares to our salvation when we treasure them more than the Giver and more than our salvation. From a rhetorical standpoint this reading is one of the most brilliant of all of the discourses that Jesus held during his earthly ministry. First he sets up this wealthy young man who would be a treasure to his mother and to any congregation. He sets him up to learn that he has not even kept the First Commandment and that thereby he has lost all hope of saving himself by the law. Then to drive the point home that salvation is the work of God alone, he sets up his disciples and us to see that we are too attached to his gifts of wealth. We either treasure too much what we have or covet too much what we don't have. We don't want to miss the triple point that Jesus so effectively places before us. Our situation before the law is always a hopeless one, since we all have things that we think we cannot bear to do without, and thereby we forfeit any claim to salvation even on the basis of the First Commandment. We need to examine ourselves to see what those things are that might make us also go away sad from Jesus our Savior. We, too, can