

Life  
does not consist in the  
abundance of possessions

LUKE 12:15



# St. Matthew

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Where the welcome is wide  
and the love is real.

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**Welcome!** Whether you are a long-time member of St. Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or any needs, please let a name-tagged usher know. We hope that you experience God's love during worship today.

### **Our Purpose:**

Welcoming all as we share God's love.

### **Our Goals:**

**Enliven** faith through worship and learning

**Cultivate** shared leadership as disciples of Jesus

**Engage** children, youth, and families

**Bridge the gaps** with home-insecure neighbors

**Build** authentic relationships across difference

Welcome

**About today:** *We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.*

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday outdoor worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).



*Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.*

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:30 a.m., August 3, 2025**

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<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Holy is the Lord with Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</i> Doug Mummert, Organist	<b>Page</b>
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**WELCOME**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETING**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to greet one another and share the peace respecting personal space and comfort levels.)*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**All: you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

Pastor: You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith.

The good news is that God does not give up on any one of us.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,

Your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*During the singing of the hymn, Children second grade and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the Musical Offering.*

**HYMN**

***God is Here***

**ELW#526  
Green/Taylor**

**(Next Page)**



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### THE READING: Colossians 3:1-11

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 49:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

<sup>2</sup> **you of high degree and low,  
rich and poor together.**

<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

<sup>5</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

<sup>6</sup> **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,  
and boast of their great riches?**

<sup>7</sup> One can never redeem another,  
or give to God the ransom for another's life;

<sup>8</sup> **for the ransom of a life is so great  
that there would never be enough to pay it,**

<sup>9</sup> in order to live forever and ever

and never see the grave.

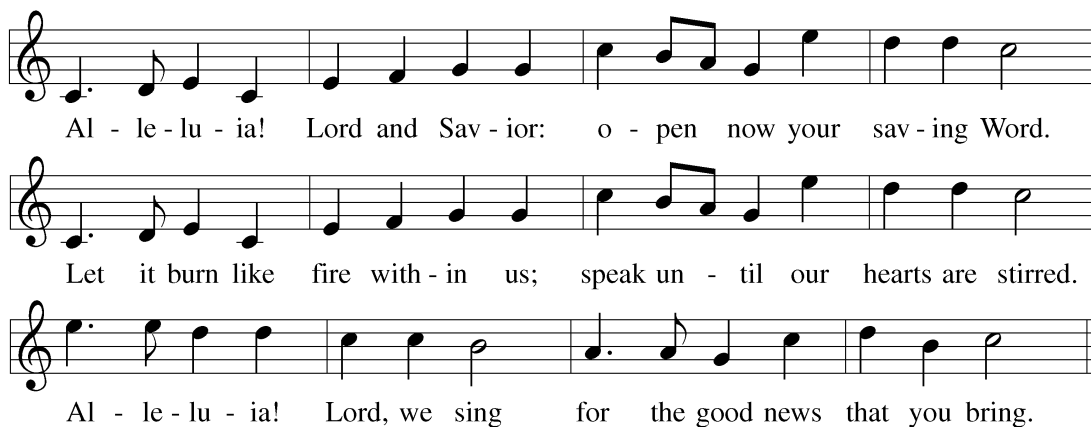
<sup>10</sup> **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

<sup>11</sup> Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,  
though they had named lands after themselves.

<sup>12</sup> **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;  
they are like the beasts that perish.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing Word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*



## SERMON

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN

### *O God of Mercy, God of Light*

ELW#714

Thring/Barnby



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
word and thought may work a work for you.  
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
may we each other's burdens share;  
may we, where help is needed, there  
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
all those who live to live in love,  
till you receive in heav'n above  
all those who live in you.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### *Apostles' Creed*

Leader: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS

Leader: Each petition concludes, “*God of grace,*” and the congregation responds, “*hear our prayer.*”

*Please be seated.*

## GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We celebrate God’s generosity embodied in this community’s time, talents, and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the “first fruits” of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website, or through our text-to-give program at 717-613-6204. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

### *Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW#685  
Havergal



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Creator God,

**All: in your wisdom, you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## ✠ THE MEAL ✠

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Please be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in three ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.*

***Individual packets*** are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

***If you are unable to come forward***, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

***Continuous manner*** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) “The blood of Christ, shed for you”, and drink it.

***Children who do not yet receive communion*** are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

## IN-PEW COMMUNION (WITH PACKETS)

Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.

**All: Amen. (Eat wafer)**

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**All: Amen. (Drink wine)**

## LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

HYMN

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW#689

Bayly

(Next Page)



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: God, our loving parent,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit,  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and to proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

**BLESSING**

Pastor: The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit

✠ Bless you and give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN**

*In Christ There is No East or West*

**ELW#650**

**Oxenham/Burleigh**



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;  
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.  
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

**DISMISSAL:**

Leader: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Rigaudon*

**Young**

**Doug Mummert, Organist**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 –  
Also #A-708989 *One License.net*



***Our warm thanks*** to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musician..... Doug Mummert, Organist  
Altar Flower Delivery ..... Pam Cashman  
Altar Guild ..... Beth Koontz, Janice Peck  
Assisting Minister..... Linda Wheeler  
Children’s Church Leader..... Melissa Smith, Mya Maloney  
Communion Assistants .....Sue Covert, Phil Covert  
Communion Preparers..... Martha Hempfing, Sally Staub  
Couriers ..... Sue Covert, Ellen Shenk  
Greeters ..... Steve & Penny Rutters  
Lector ..... Steve Rutters  
Live Stream ..... Lexi, Tom Shultz  
Ushers ..... Team 5: Jay Bowersox, Hailey Bucher, Jeremy Bucher,  
.....Randy Kline, Jody Ruhlman, Ellen Shenk

***THE ALTAR FLOWERS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in honor of Barbara Rebling on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7 by Ed, Linda and Kathy; in loving memory of Anna E. Baker who passed away on August 6, 2013 by her son Philip Zinn; in loving memory of Doris E. Gouker who would have celebrated her birthday on August 8 by Ed, Linda and Kathy; in loving memory of Sally Yelland Ehrhart who would have celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7 by her loving husband Sid Ehrhart.

***THE BULLETINS*** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sally Yelland Ehrhart who would have celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 7 by her loving husband Sid Ehrhart.

**PRAYER LIST:** In our intercessory prayers we pray for individuals who have offered permission to have their names included. These names will be listed up to a month unless otherwise requested. After that time, prayers will continue for each person through our prayer chain. Newly added names will appear in bold. If you would like to be included in the prayers of the prayer chain **but not listed** in the bulletin, you may contact Beth Koontz at bethk9245@gmail.com or by calling the church office at 717-637-7101.

**Eva Hobbs**

**Donna Holz**

Kim Beard

Janet Maloney

Pearl Wintrobe

Diane Moul

Diane Coppola

Linda Quicksell

Barb Rebling

Dan Markle

Nancy Leister

Lucas Cherry

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning August 3:

Sunday: Luke 12:13-21

Monday: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Tuesday: Colossians 4:2-6

Wednesday: Luke 12:22-31

Thursday: Romans 9:1-9

Friday: Ecclesiastes 6:1-6

Saturday: Matthew 6:19-24

**MEET THE ORGANIST, DOUG MUMMERT:** I was Director of Music at Solomons Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA for 33 years. My wife Zoe and I have 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. We recently retired and moved to Gettysburg to be closer to family. We are currently members of Christ Lutheran Gettysburg.

We welcome Doug and thank him for being with us.

**The following members of St. Matthew were awarded scholarships this year:** Mya Maloney, Mason Smith, Tyler Fett, Libby Houston, Regin Smith, and Hunter Crabbs were all awarded the Straley/Nace Scholarship. Gracie Troup was awarded the Stauffer Scholarship. Cole Smith was awarded the Peck Scholarship. Mike Jones was awarded the Ehlers Scholarship and Deb Smith was awarded the Rohrbaugh Scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee congratulates all of this year's recipients and wishes them continued success in their schooling and in their careers of choice.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish a very happy birthday to Barbara Rebling  
who turns 100 years young on August 7!

## ***SIGN-UP FORM***

Please fill out the pertinent part(s) for you, tear off this page and put in the offering basket or email the church office at *info@stmattlutheran.org*, listing what you are signing up for and the information requested. See Announcements Page for more details.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to receive \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail updates and/or \_\_\_\_\_ newsletter in the mail. (Provide name, e-mail, and/or mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of St. Matthew and below is updated contact information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address



13 session GriefShare support group will begin Monday, August 25, 2025, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew Upper Room. There will be NO meeting on Labor Day, September 1.

Neil Rasmussen says this is why GriefShare Group works for him...

Large group sessions break into small groups for discussion, so we can all participate. We all face similar circumstances, including the facilitators. We support each other. It helped me...

- To know I'm not alone.
- To guide me on my alternate way of life.
- To hold my hand when needed.

Call the church office to register or fill out the form below and drop into the offering plate. You may email Pastor Faye at [nicksong@comcast.net](mailto:nicksong@comcast.net) or call her at 717-637-7101 ext. 225.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



JOIN US FOR  
**THE JOURNEY**  
**AHEAD**

**A YOUNG ADULT BLESSING**  
POST HIGH SCHOOL AGE



AUGUST  
**10TH**  
2025

COME RECIEVE A BLESSING  
DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE  
AND JOIN US FOR  
FELLOWSHIP AND  
REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE  
SERVICE IN THE UPPER  
ROOM.

**10:30**  
SERVICE





**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
www.StMattLutheran.org  
30 W. Chestnut St. Hanover, PA 17331  
717-637-7101  
General Mailbox: 221  
info@stmattlutheran.org

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Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext 231  
pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext 229  
pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org

Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext 225  
nicksong@comcast.net

Deb Smith, Interim Minister of Music, ext 236  
dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext 230  
youth@stmattlutheran.org

Melissa Smith, Children & Family Ministry, ext 232  
msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Hannah Chiacchierini, Communications Administrator, ext 222  
hannahc@stmattlutheran.org

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E-Giving

**FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>21</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me <sup>19</sup>—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

**Psalms 49:1-12**

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.

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