



September 5, 2021
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Worship Participants

Preaching Today: Pastor Lamont Koerner

Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss

Reader: Lynne Moratzka

There was a rich person and a poor one. Sounds straightforward. The beginning of a simple story. Yet when we read these words, we each have our assumptions. What do the words, rich, poor, mean? What do they imply about these persons? What is this Bible story about? In an age of deepening chasms between rich and poor, spouses, parents and children, left and right, democrat and republican, what is the challenge, the call, for our christian faith community?

Prelude

Ring of the Bells

Welcome

Hymn: *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, verses 1 & 3*

1 Come ye sin - ners, poor and nee - dy, Weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;
2 Come, ye thir - sty, come and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3 Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy - la - den, Lost and ru - ined by the fall;
4 Let not cons - cience make you lin - ger, Nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, Full of pi - ty, love and pow'r.
True be - lief and true re - pen - tance, Ev' - ry grace that brings you nigh.
If you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, You will ne - ver come at all.
All the fit - ness He re - qui - reth Is to feel your need of Him.

Chorus

I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Sa - vior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of wonders, there are days when we cannot see you. Someone is standing in the way, blocking your light. Kids, or phones, or traffic distract our attention away from you. We want to see you, but sometimes we forget to show up or we put it in the calendar wrong. And on those days, when we cannot see you, we tell ourselves that everything is ok because we know your stories anyway.

C: But God, it doesn't feel ok. I feel trapped by the brokenness around me; the selfishness, the distractions, and the mistakes I've made. My heart wants me to climb the tallest tree, to see you in a fresh, unencumbered way. Still, I find myself grumbling, standing stubborn in the dirt, and hardening my heart. Forgive me, loving God. Forgive me for how I treat others, for how I treat myself, and for how I treat you.

P: Sisters and brothers in faith, God sees you no matter where you stand; trapped in the dirt or up in a tree. Wherever you are, God invites you to be free. You are forgiven. You are loved. And you are free to begin again. In the name of our Creator, the Son, and the Spirit of God.

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

God of wonders, give us fresh eyes to better see you. Help us put aside our fears and hesitations, that we may care for ALL our neighbors. You are the source of light, wisdom, and life for the world. We aspire to be compassionate like you. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Sermon

Hymn: ELW 521 - O Day of Rest and Gladness, verses 1 & 4

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of wonders, we are grateful for the trees you give us to climb. Help us to climb farther into your stories: seeing you more fully, breathing more peacefully, sharing ourselves more completely. To you we gladly offer ourselves; our work, our rest, our resources, and our love. In your blessed name we pray, Amen.

Communion - Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Table Blessing/Prayer

Blessing and Sending

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude