

a STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE
GOD-LIVED
life

A Life Lived Shrewdly

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

July 24, 2022

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a Christian, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. This is the final of four months where God's Word will be challenging us, and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life.

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. Today God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose. May God grant us grace to use money for what really matters! This month, we focus on wise ways to use the resources God has given us for the greatest good.

Month One: A Life of Being a Disciple

Month Two: A Life Lived for Others

Month Three: A Life of Hospitality

Month Four: A Life Lived Shrewdly

A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life lived shrewdly

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose.

Our challenge card this month will focus on *living shrewdly* with the blessings and treasures that God has given us. But what did Jesus mean when he encouraged us to be *shrewd*? Who is someone you know that is a positive example of shrewdness? In what ways are you already shrewd? In what ways are you not shrewd? How can you honor God by managing with intention the gifts he has given you?

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

MORNING PRAISE

"Morning Praise" is based on the historic service called "Matins". Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we prepare for the activities of the day.

HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending | CW 749



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



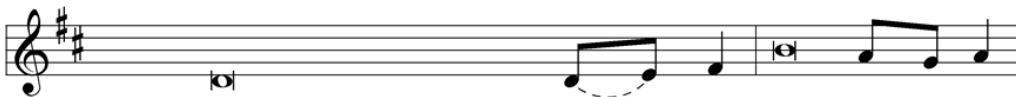
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

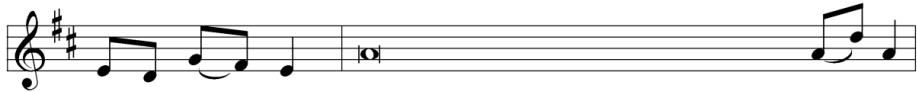


M: Praise be to God, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy — Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD – *Venite*



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



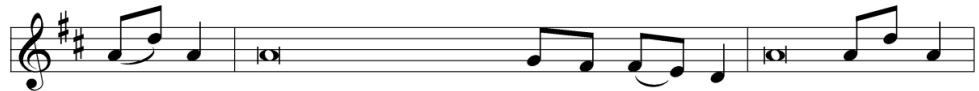
great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



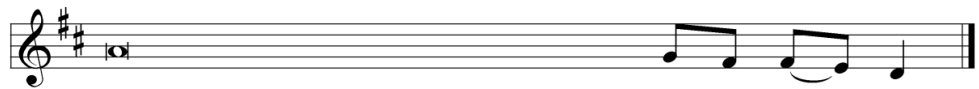
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have brought us into the body of Christ by your grace and mercy. Help us to imitate the example of your Son and of our brothers and sisters who have gone before in humble and willing service to you full of faith, hope and love, through

your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

be seated

FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 4:8-17

A godly woman uses her resources for what really matters. She wasn't giving to get, she was giving to support ministry.

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. A prominent woman who lived there persuaded him to eat some food. So whenever he passed by, he stopped there to eat. ⁹ Then she said to her husband, "I know that the one who often passes by here is a holy man of God, ¹⁰ so let's make a small, walled-in upper room and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp there for him. Whenever he comes, he can stay there."

¹¹ One day he came there and stopped at the upstairs room to lie down. ¹² He ordered his attendant Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her and she stood before him.

¹³ Then he said to Gehazi, "Say to her, 'Look, you've gone to all this trouble for us. What can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'"

She answered, "I am living among my own people."

¹⁴ So he asked, "Then what should be done for her?"

Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ "Call her," Elisha said. So Gehazi called her, and she stood in the doorway. ¹⁶ Elisha said, "At this time next year you will have a son in your arms."

Then she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your servant."

¹⁷ The woman conceived and gave birth to a son at the same time the following year, as Elisha had promised her.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 100

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 6:6-19

The love of money, not money is a sin. Instead of looking to God to provide instead it looks to possessions.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. ⁸ If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 20:31

Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

please stand

THE GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-15

Jesus tells a parable about a shrewd manager to make the single point that a God-lived life uses its resources for God's purposes.

Now he said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who received an accusation that his manager was squandering his possessions. ² So he called the manager in and asked, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be my manager.'

³ "Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do since my master is taking the management away from me? I'm not strong enough to dig; I'm ashamed to beg. ⁴ I know what I'll do so that when I'm removed from management, people will welcome me into their homes.'

⁵ "So he summoned each one of his master's debtors. 'How much do you owe my master?' he asked the first one.

⁶ "A hundred measures of olive oil,' he said.

"Take your invoice,' he told him, 'sit down quickly, and write fifty.'

⁷ "Next he asked another, 'How much do you owe?'

"A hundred measures of wheat,' he said.

“‘Take your invoice,’ he told him, ‘and write eighty.’

⁸“The master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this age are more shrewd than the children of light in dealing with their own people.⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of worldly wealth¹⁰ so that when it fails, they may welcome you into eternal dwellings. ¹⁰Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. ¹¹So if you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with what is genuine? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and scoffing at him. ¹⁵And he told them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly admired by people is revolting in God’s sight.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What is the World to Me | CW 717

SERMON

Luke 16:1-15

please stand

OFFERING

The offerings during the week are placed on the altar. Thank you to all who are able to support our church and it’s ministry during this time. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to give.

LORD, HAVE MERCY – Kyrie

please stand



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty Father, you are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing. You give us time, energy, talents, and treasures. Because of you we can say with the psalmist, “the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.” Your Word teaches us of your great love for us and how to love our neighbor. Give us wisdom in using your gifts in God-pleasing ways. Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Lord Jesus Christ, you tell us that “what people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.” Help us to recognize our true treasure in you, our Savior and our God. Protect us from the devil who would have us marvel at insignificant things as a treasure, while neglecting the great gifts you give us in your Word and Sacraments. Give us wisdom in cherishing you and your greater gifts in God-pleasing ways. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Holy Spirit, you have set us apart and made our bodies your temple. You live in us. Your Word teaches us who we really are by the grace of God and through the innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us wisdom to see that godliness with contentment is great gain and grow in us the fruit that is pleasing to you Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Accept our prayers for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Help us to not be arrogant nor put our hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but help us put our hope in you, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment, for Jesus, our Savior’s sake. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

My Worth Is Not in What I Own | **CW 753**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns | CW 511



13009 N. Elderberry Ct.

Lodi, CA 95242

www.christlodi.org

209-368-6250

Pastor Joshua Hanson

WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

*“Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*

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