

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

9:30 A.M.

Theme of the Day:

How can we live in a financial world and not have financial fears overwhelm us? How can we get rid of our mouse-like hearts and face financial challenges with the heart of a lion? Malachi, the last prophet in the Old Testament, provides answers for us. Let's listen!

Call to Worship

"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

LSB 790, v. 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Welcome

Invocation and Opening Sentences

(Please stand)

(Selected verses from 2 Corinthians 8–9)

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.

C The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

P Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

C And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

P So that you will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.

C For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

All: Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Hymn

"Come Thou, Almighty King"

LSB 905, vv 1-3

Confession and Absolution

P Lord God, we come into Your presence this day with rejoicing. Yet our hearts are also heavy with the burden of our sin. We confess our sin to You and to one another, trusting in Your promise to forgive us and to guide us by Your Holy Spirit to change our sinful ways. Our arrogance and self-deception. We confess to You, Lord,

C Our discontent with Your gracious provision,

P We confess to You, Lord,

C Our meager generosity,

P We confess to You, Lord,

C Our giving in to the temptation to store up treasures on earth,

P We confess to You, Lord,

C Our unwillingness to trust Christ as life's most valued relationship.

P As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven through the cross of Jesus. Peace and mercy be upon you now and forever!

C Amen and Amen!

Hymn

“Come Thou, Almighty King”

LSB 905, vv 1-3

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, You lavish on us the riches of Your mercy in Your Word, in Holy Baptism, and in the Lord’s Supper.

C Help us so to give thanks for Your abundant mercy to us, that the riches of Your mercy overflow from us to the world around us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ READINGS +

First Reading

Malachi 3:6-10

(Please be seated)

L “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 3:1-13

L For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read

this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

(Please stand)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon "God Calms Our Financial Fears" Pastor Keith Jones

Hymn "Oh that the Lord Would Guide my Ways" LSB 707

The Prayers of the Church

- P** With lives redeemed by Christ and in His love let us entrust to Him our prayers. Gracious God, send Your Holy Spirit on Your whole Church so that Your people overcome financial fears, trusting You when You say,
- C** "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10)

- P** Send Your Holy Spirit on each of us. Forgive us when we place possessions before You. Convict us when we seek only the things of this life instead of the gifts of the life to come. Give us the faith and humility to trust You when you say,
- C** "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10)

- P** Send Your Holy Spirit on all church leaders, all pastors, and servants of Your Church. Help us to be of aid and encouragement to them that we may extend the blessings of Your kingdom to all and so that all the more Your church believes You when you say,
- C** "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10)

Additional petitions are offered...

- P** You are the Father of orphans and friend of the poor. To those who weep, pour out the wine of joy; to those who hunger, give the bread of love. Make us a generous church that extends our resources to those in need, even as we dare to believe Your promise,
- C** "I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10)

P Hear our prayers, heal our sorrows, and bring us at last to everlasting life where You reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *2 Timothy 4:22*

(Please stand.)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *Incorporating Isaiah 6:2–3; Revelation 4:8; Mark 11:9–10*

P We join the seraphim Isaiah saw: “Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

C ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’”

P And we echo the four living creatures around the throne of which St. John wrote, “Day and night they never cease to say,

C ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’”

P And we rejoice with the Palm Sunday crowds of whom St. Mark wrote, “Those who went before and those who followed . . . shouted,

C ‘Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! . . . Hosanna in the highest!’”

Lord’s Prayer

P Lord Jesus, 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *John 1:29*

P John the Baptist "saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

C Have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

P Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace. Amen.

The Distribution

(Please be seated)

(...after the Communion, please stand...)

Post-communion Canticle *Luke 2:29–32*

P When Simeon saw the baby Jesus in the temple, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

C "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel."

Post-communion Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. As You, Lord Jesus, took bread, gave thanks, blessed it, broke it, and gave it for all to eat, so fill us with the Holy Spirit that we receive the gifts You give with thanks, use our gifts to bless the world, share our bounty for the sake of Your kingdom, and give our lives in service to You.

C Amen.

Benediction *Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6: 24-26*

C Amen.

Hymn

“Have No Fear, Little Flock”

LSB 735

Silent Prayer

Lord Jesus, while life’s dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside. Amen.

(LSB 702, v 3)

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Acknowledgments

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For next week: Read Malachi 3:13-4:3 and answer these questions:

1. Describe these two groups.
2. What are their destinies?
3. When Christ returns, how will these verses be fulfilled for you?

Sermon Outline
Malachi: Managing God's Gifts for God's Glory
"God Calms Our Financial Fears" – (Malachi 3:6-10)

1. FINANCIAL FEARS ARE UN_____.

"For I the LORD do n_____ change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."
(Malachi 3:6)

2. FINANCIAL FEARS ARE UN_____.

"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have n_____ kept them." (Malachi 3:7)

3. FINANCIAL FEARS ARE UN_____.

"Will man r_____ God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your t_____ and c_____." (Malachi 3:8)

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."
(Psalm 24:1)

HOW TO O_____ FINANCIAL FEARS

★ T_____ YOUR I_____.

"Bring the f_____ tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house." (Malachi 3:10)

★ T_____ THE LORD.

"Put me to the t_____, says the LORD of hosts." (Malachi 3:10)

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake life itself on it a thousand times." – Martin Luther

★ T_____ GOD'S C_____.

"I will o_____ the windows of heaven for you and p_____ down for you a
b_____ until there is no more n_____." (Malachi 3:10)

▶ "G_____, and it will be g_____ to you. G_____ measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

"Seek f_____ the k_____ of God and his r_____
and a_____ these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)