

Rev. Timothy M. Crummitt

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Year C

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

08/05/2019

### **Gospel**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

13Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15And 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.” 16Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18Then 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. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20But 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?’ 21So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

## Prayer

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

## Clothed In Love

Good morning! Pauls writes:

*“1So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. 5Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! 12As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has*

*forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”<sup>1</sup>*

Colossians 3:14, that last verse, is my favorite piece of scripture. Clothe yourself with love... it's just always gotten to me. What I've always loved about this section of scripture, and I basically have the entire chapter underlined in my Bible, is that it makes it clear that love isn't just some indescribable emotion that demands little of us. No, love is something active, it's something we have to do, it's not passive. You have to put on love, you have to decide to let love show.

When I began this sermon I had a fun wedding-like sermon planned. But that was before the shootings. Yesterday a shooter walked into a Walmart in El Paso, Texas and killed at least 20. This morning I woke up to find out that another shooter took the lives of at least 9 people in Dayton, Ohio.

Unfortunately, this isn't my first sermon about mass shootings. In the past I've made suggestions like stricter gun laws, better background checks. I've advocated for better mental health care, and I have asked us all to make sure that our lives speak of the love that we read in Colossians, but I'm honestly at a loss for words this morning. So I've decided to not say anything. I'm going to sit down and we'll spend the next few minutes in silence. Because there are a great many voices that will no longer speak. Because sometimes words just don't cut it. Because our hearts cry out loud enough already. Because it's only when we're silent that we can finally hear what God has to say.

*I sit down in my seat and after several minutes I end with a prayer.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Colossians 3:1-14 NRSV