

Martin Luther Chapel – Pennsauken, NJ

4 August 2019

Color: Green

Propers: 13

Divine Service: I

Proper Preface: Common

Sermon Text: Gospel Reading: Luke 12: 19-21

Sermon Title: Retirement.

The word “retirement” is one of those sweet words that cause us to think of rest and relaxation from

- ✠ a lifetime of
 - ✠ hard work,
 - ✠ responsibilities,
 - ✠ and stress.

✠ It is especially alluring when we are having “one of those days” where we get up hours before sunrise to go:

- ✠ to our full-time job while making sure we have all we need for;
 - ✠ our part-time job,
 - ✠ the kid’s sports event,
 - ✠ a continuing education class,
 - ✠ the college course to complete our degree
 - ✠ or to the doctor’s office with severe pains in our back and joints.

✠ We comfort and reassurance ourselves that

- ✠ if we properly plan and prepare
- ✠ we one day will be able to
 - ✠ retire,
 - ✠ rest
 - ✠ and relax.

The thought of a point in time where we will

- ✠ step away from the demands and rigors of our job
- ✠ gives us strength to continue in difficult times,
- ✠ focus in times of chaos and uncertainty,
- ✠ and joy as our children
 - ✠ grow up,
 - ✠ get married,
 - ✠ and have children.

 We may have thoughts of
 moving to a milder climate,
 taking up that hobby that we now have neither the time nor the money for,
 start exercising and eating right,
 visit places we read about,
 or just relax and do nothing for as long as we wish to do so.

God **reminds us** of the vanity of trusting in earthly things to give us true peace and rest.

 God has again this morning **provided** us with our daily bread:

 bread **sufficient** for
† our physical needs
† our spiritual needs
† and for the **good work that He**
‡ **created,**
‡ **sustains,**
‡ and **completes,**
‡ at the end of this day
‡ for His **glory**
‡ and our **good.**

 We sin against God and our neighbor if we believe that

 at some point in our life where we
† have no more work to do in our heavenly Father's fields,
† have no more responsibilities within our heavenly Father's family,
† have accumulated a solid retirement that can support us for years to come,
† and relax and enjoy life.

Planning and preparing for our senior years are not necessarily bad or foolish unless we consider them apart from the **will of God.**

 We provoke God when we

 look at the **gracious and generous gifts**

 that **come from His hand every day**

 and think that they are

† for our good alone,

† to be used as we see best,

† as a means to gain rest from His work,

† or that tomorrow is a guarantee.

 Our LORD and God **tells us** through each of the readings this morning that

 such thoughts, words, and deeds

 are vanity and foolishness.

 He **graciously brings us His word** that **gives us**

 **eternal joy and peace**

 now and for eternity.

Jesus again **speaks the words of life** to you and me this morning.

 He **knows that** we have need of them for this life is full of

 temptations and trials,

 idols,

 and sinful options.

 He **knows this** because He

 **lived, and moved and breathed** on this earth

 in a body of flesh and blood that experienced

† **demanding,**

† **exhausting,**

† **painful work**

† that ended in **death**

‡ **on the cross**

‡ **for our salvation.**

 He **is always doing His Father's will and work** and, thus, He **tells us** that

 while there is light

 we too must always do our heavenly Father's will and work.

Therefore, Christ **leads us** into God's storehouse or barn

 that He may **show us** He has **blessed us**

† with an **abundance** of

† good and gracious gifts.

 He **points to the many good things** there:

 our faith

 and our vocations as a:

† spouse,

† child,

† parent,

† sibling,

† relative,

† co-worker

† and neighbor.

 God has **given us His love** in Christ

 sufficient for this day

 and the **work He gives us**.

 Jesus **knows** that we

 look at such things

 and think "shouldn't this barn be much larger to accommodate even more great and abundant gifts?"

 He **assures** us

 that it is sufficient

 and that as we receive even more than this place can hold

† we are given the opportunity to share it with those in need

† that their faith and vocations may be

‡ sustained,

‡ strengthened

‡ and safeguarded.

 Our LORD **cautions** us in those times we will be tempted to:

 hoard those provisions for ourselves;

 covet our neighbor's barns;

 and think that we can build a bigger and stronger barn to hold

† the good things He **gives us**

† to support our physical needs.



He **bids** you to



remain strong in Him



and resist such inclinations.

The Suffering Servant **speaks** to you and me of times yet to come.



When we will find our provisions here lacking



but look to Him



for He **has given others abundance** in the physical things you need



to **help you** weather those days.



He **sends them** to you packaged in **His love** as your brothers and sisters in Him:



Spouse;



Children;



Siblings;



and neighbors.

The Risen One **speaks** to you and me this hour,



encouraging us to be alert and strong in Him



by the power of the Holy Spirit.



He **reminds** us that even this afternoon is not guaranteed to us.



Thus remain



faithful to God,



look to Him alone for every good and gracious thing



this day and every day



of our exodus through this veil of tears.



He **bids** you and me to be confident



that when our life is required



He **will greet** us

† “Well done good and faithful servant...

† Enter into the joy of your master.”

My brothers and sisters in Christ what does this mean to and for us?

 It is foolishness to think that there is a time in this life
 when we will no longer need to do our heavenly Father's work
 and go our own way to
 † relax,
 † eat,
 † drink
 † and be merry.

 It is unwise to think that we
 will live a long and rich life
 where temporal things will have any lasting value.

 It is irresponsible to think that we can receive both
 the good things from God
 while storing up things that gratify the flesh.

 If you or I have embraced this recklessness:
 immediately repent;
 honestly confess your foolhardiness;
 gratefully receive His forgiveness for Jesus' sake;
 and humbly and obediently walk with Him in the power of the
Holy Spirit.

God **again** shows us true wisdom –

 Christ Jesus –
 that **provides** divine and eternal joy and peace.

 Our LORD **once more tells us** that our loving heavenly Father has
 **provided** every good and necessary thing
 for our life with Him
 here in this world
 and in eternity.

 Praise God for the rich treasures He has **abundantly given** you in this
life:

 **forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ Jesus;**
 **eternal life in Christ Jesus;**
 **salvation because of the salvific work of Christ Jesus;**
 **faith, hope and love in Christ Jesus;**

 **and the gifts of the Holy Spirit** to use

† for His glory

† and the proclamation of the Gospel to all in our vocations.

 Honor God through good stewardship of our eternal inheritance that
He **gives us**

 to support our physical and spiritual needs here in this life

 and even now awaits us in eternity:

† **His love;**

† **His peace;**

† **His joy;**

† **He – Himself –**

✠ **our heavenly Father**

✠ **our LORD and Savior**

✠ **the LORD and Giver of Life**

† so that we can rest, eat, drink and be merry

† at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb with

✠ all His angels,

✠ archangels

✠ and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God's retirement plan is the **only one that guarantees**

 true, perfect and eternal rest and relaxation

 from a physical life of hard work, responsibilities and stress.

 Rejoice, He **comforts and reassurances** us that

 He has

† **perfectly planned,**

† **properly prepared,**

† **and steadfastly safeguards** our eternal inheritance

 with all the saints who now rest in Him

 that “neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break
in and steal” (Matthew 6: 20).

Amen and Amen