



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edgar

and

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 23, 2007



8:15 a.m. – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milan
10:15 a.m. – St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Edgar
congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod



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Welcome! We are sincerely glad that you joined us in worship today. We bid you welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope you will come again to join us in Word and Sacrament. Also, if you have not already done so, please take a moment to sign our Guest Register as you leave. Thank-you!

Today's theme: "Trampling On the Poor?"

In accord with our Lord's command, we at Bethlehem LCMS (Milan) and St. John LCMS (Edgar), adhere to the Scriptural, historical, and universal practice of Close Communion. This means that those communing at our altars are those with whom we are united in one confession. Ordinarily that means only active LC–MS members will commune at our altars.



Visitors who wish to take Holy Communion with us are asked to please see the pastor or an elder to obtain a Visitor Communion Card. Thank you in advance for helping us to be faithful to Scripture and to be good stewards of the Sacrament.

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Readings from Holy Scripture (remember to mark page 156 for the responses)

OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 8:4–7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?"

And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
⁶that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 2:1–15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 16:1–15

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."