**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Matthew 6:24-34**

***Do not be anxious about your life.***

Six weeks ago, Jesus said to us: “No 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.”

Today He said to us: “No one 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.”

Lest you think this is Pastor trying to drive home a point by putting similar readings twice in a short period, or our fathers in the faith who laid out the lectionary a thousand years ago picking on a pet topic, it’s not. If you put these two sayings in the context of the Gospels and their chronology, Jesus made this same point twice in His preaching. Today’s Gospel is from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ first extended public teaching to His followers. The second time comes later in His ministry as He spars with the Pharisees over their love of money. So, Jesus Himself had to drive this point home at least twice in His ministry. If He said it more than once and if two different Evangelists *and* the Holy Spirit who inspired their writing saw the need to tell them to write it twice, then we must need to hear it twice. At least. Why?

Parents: Have you ever had to tell you child to do something more than once? Children: Have your parents ever had to tell you to do something more than once? And we’re all somebody’s children, so every single one of us have had to have an instruction given to us more than once. So today we hear again: “No 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.”

Or, put another way: “do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. …Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? Or as some other translations of the Bible translate that last phrase, “Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”

Jesus is making a very simple point by asking a very simple question: If you fret about it and lose sleep over it and make your entire being tense over it can you make your life one second longer? Can you make yourself one millimeter taller? No! So strop! If anything, you’re going to make your life shorter by stewing in your own troubles and wearing down your body. Or you’re going to make yourself shorter by being hunched over in worry. So, all of your anxiety, all your hand-wringing, all your sleepless nights worried about elections and covid and bank accounts and group projects and conjugating that list of verbs in Spanish class is not going to solve the problem. Do not be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious about itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. This is what Satan wants. Thes anxieties are the seeds he sews in our minds and hopes spring forth into the thorns and thistles and weeds that will choke out the seed of faith and its fruit. He wants us to believe that God does not care, that God is not in control, and is powerless to do anything about your problems. But remember what you learned from the Catechism in the explanation of the First Article of the Creed: “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Today is in the hands of God the Father who has given you all you need for this body and this life and for today. Tomorrow is in the hands of God the Father who has given you all you need for this body and this life and for tomorrow. There is not a day of your life that has not, is not, and will not be in God’s control. Your God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Nothing is unknown to Him, too large for Him to overcome, or too small for Him to care about. If God takes care of birds and lilies, you have nothing to worry about. For today.

But most importantly, your eternal tomorrow beyond all anxiety is guaranteed because Jesus Christ took on your flesh, was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell and on the third day He rose again from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. Because the dwelling place of God is with men, because God dwells with You by Word and Sacrament an because He has made you His own through Holy Baptism, eternal paradise is yours, where God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

5Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.—no matter how many times you forget them, no matter how many times God has to repeat them to you.