

5:30 p.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

**Order of Service**  
**Saint Michael Lutheran Church**  
**3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

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**Eighth Saturday after Pentecost**

**August 2, 2025**

**Prelude**

*"God Himself Is Present"*

*arr. by Michael Burkhardt*

**Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings**

**Opening Hymn**

*"God Himself Is Present"*

**907**

**Invocation**

*Pastor:* In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen.

**Confession and Absolution**

*Pastor:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

*People:* But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Pastor:* Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*People:* Almighty God, You are the giver of everything we have. Yet, we are guilty of coveting the possessions, experiences, and social standing of others. We sin by valuing these things above You. For Jesus' sake, forgive our sins. Renew us in Your knowledge and conform us to Your image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor:* "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). We receive the riches of God's forgiveness because of Jesus. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen.

**Hymn of Praise**

*"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"*

**851**

## First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26 (NIV)

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless. A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## Holy Gospel

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'" "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Evening

*"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

*by Dale Wood and  
Robert Lansing Edwards*



# Sermon

## The Parable of the Rich Fool

*Pastor Roy Peterson*

To watch and listen to last week's sermon, visit [tinyurl.com/smlcslive](http://tinyurl.com/smlcslive).

## Sermon Notes

1. Which of the Seven Deadly Sins does this parable most directly address? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. The Parable of the Rich Fool is Law or Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. According to Martin Luther, "Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon,  
\_\_\_\_\_."
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do you never see at a funeral? \_\_\_\_\_
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. According to martyred missionary Jim Elliot, "A person is no fool to give  
\_\_\_\_\_ in order to gain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_."

## Apostles' Creed

*inside back cover of hymnal*

## Offering

As stewards of God's abundant gifts, we are called to use our time, talents, and treasures to further His kingdom and serve one another in love. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Let us continue to grow in faith and generosity, trusting that God will provide for all our needs as we faithfully serve Him.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: [tinyurl.com/SMLGiving](https://tinyurl.com/SMLGiving).

You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

## Ministry Moment

*Youth Dinner*

## Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

## Holy Communion

## Distribution Hymns

*"Take My Life and Let It Be"*

**784**

*"Praise and Thanksgiving"*

**789**

## Blessing

## Closing Hymn

*"Amazing Grace"*

**744**

## Postlude

*"Trumpet Tune"*

*by Francesco Manfredini  
arr. by S. Drummond Wolff*

