

Sermon for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost [1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity] (A), Proper, [Memorial Day] 25.v.06  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint James the Apostle / Brogue, Pennsylvania  
Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131, I Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34  
Summer Worship, 10:00 a.m.

# J. J.!

Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and

Who is to come! ✠ Amen.

**"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"**

**Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"**

**And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"**

**And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.**

**But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you--you of little faith?"**

**Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'"**

**For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

**But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**--Matthew 6:25-33**

This central part of today's Gospel is framed by two proverbs. The first proverb, at the beginning of the pericope, is about the conflict between serving two masters, materialism and faith. The second, at the end, is about living free from worry—as we would say, it is about not 'borrowing trouble.' It is completely plausible to accept that Our Lord spoke these proverbs, folk sayings he had grown up with, both of which find an echo in the Book of Proverbs. The sayings *in between* these proverbs lie at the heart of His teaching for us on this Second Sunday after Pentecost, the First Sunday after Trinity.

Our Lord teaches us about beautiful creatures and parts of God's Creation which live and then pass away. This Sunday, on the eve of our American and Canadian Memorial Days, is a time for nations, families and citizens to remember loss, and to honor lives given for the defense of the homeland. Today's

Gospel is a message for Memorial Day, and for each day of our lives.

The non-human creatures of God's Creation, those who do not know how not to trust the Creator, those incapable of fearing or second-guessing the Creator, those creatures who are also incapable of attempting to usurp the Lordship of the Creator, lives their lives instinctively by trust in the providing hand of God, and they pass from this life into those hands that gave them this life. Most of them in the wild die unseen by human eyes, like those birds of the air clothed more splendidly than the most glorious King of Israel. Humans whose responsibility it is to accompany animals to the end of this life will attest to the serene resignation that comes at the end where care has been taken to respect the animal's dignity.

Only we, who began our history as the Bible witnesses in distrust, dishonesty and rebellion toward the Creator, live in

fear of death, of want, of pain all of our days, from as soon as we are able to frame abstract thoughts. We grab hold of life and the things of this world and hold on feverishly. Instead of providing for one another, we form armed camps against one another, nation against nation, hoarding and monopolizing resources that could feed, clothe and house the whole human race. A noble and serene death is an ideal for many which few achieve. There *is* another way.

That way came in the fullness of time in history and to us through the community of the Church in One Who never ate bread He was not willing to share, in One Who taught His followers to cover the nakedness of the poor and Whose mighty Word and wonders removed diseases and guilt which clothing cannot hide. The Way so different from the way of fear and anxiety came in the One Who called God His 'Father,' Who lived every day and walked every mile joyfully confident that

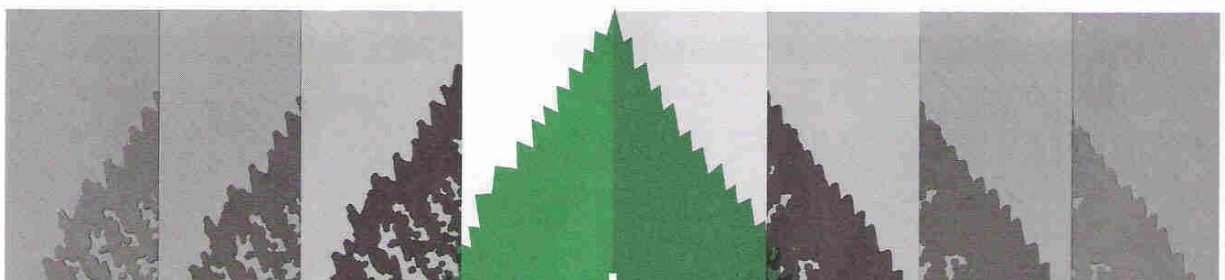
His Heavenly Father had neither forgotten nor forsaken Him, the same Heavenly Father we have through and in Him. In Him a way through even the gate of death itself was opened.

✠Amen.

As we remember our dead, as we face our own mortality this Memorial Day, may God the Holy Spirit lead us in peace through Christ, the open door of God from death to life everlasting. ✠Amen.

Now to Him Who love us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made of us a kingdom, priests to Our God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

✠Amen.



**S. D. G.!**