

**Gospel and Sermon Transcript -9th Sunday After Pentecost - August 10, 2025**

Welcome to worship.

On a day that we not only get to worship,  
but get to recognize wedding anniversaries.

The Kleinsmiths celebrate 60 years today  
as do the McLeods.

And thank you for the flowers that are on the altar.

And may God richly bless your remembering  
and also the days to come.

Now, there is a group of relative newlyweds.

We're also marking an anniversary this week.

Only 45 years, Alan and Bobbye.

So we also extend our greetings to you.

A couple of times today, you will hear in the scriptures  
fear not.

And it's interesting to me that it always happens when people  
are minding their own business and God shows up.

Today, Jesus hints at that by saying that rather than living  
in fear, we can live as generous people in joyful expectation  
that, yes, while we're minding our own business,  
God will indeed show up.

And God delights in doing just that.

So this is going to be the theme of our readings  
and our worship today.

I don't believe there are too many announcements  
about how we will conduct the service.

I trust it'll be fairly straightforward.

**The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.**

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it  
is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Sell your possessions and give alms.

Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out  
and unfeeling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near  
and no moth destroys.

For where your treasure is, there your heart  
will be also.

Be dressed for action.

Have your lamps lit, like those who  
are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet,  
so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes  
and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert

when he comes.

Truly, I tell you, the master will fashion and fasten his belt  
and have them sit down, and he will come to serve them.

If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn  
and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

But know this, if the owner of a house  
had known what hour the thief was coming,  
he would not have let his house be broken into.

You must also be ready, for the Son of Man  
is coming at an unexpected hour.

The gospel of our Lord.

Don't you be seated.

[PANTING]

Grace and peace to you.

The Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Where do we find it?

Maybe this story will be instructive.

Some of you will know the punch line, and if you do,  
I invite you to offer it.

So a visitor goes to New York City and asks a local,  
how do I get to Carnegie Hall?

Practice, practice, practice.

The kingdom of God is not this place that we're looking for.

It is this way of being that God gleefully

would love to have us be part of and invites us into.

You might think of it almost as ethos or a vibe, if you will.

I'll draw from maybe a somewhat mundane example

about this vibe that I speak of.

My friend Dave is a coffee aficionado who just got back

from Denmark.

It's close as I'll come.

And I wanted to know, how's the coffee?

And he said, well, it was OK.

He said, but every time I asked for directions

to a good coffee shop or cafe, people

wanted to tell me about the comfortable chairs.

These Danes have a thing for comfortable chairs.

And it turns out that he is part of the vibe.

The Scandinavian folk, I trust I pronounced this close enough.

Call it Huga.

Which is comfort.

It is coziness.

It is companionability and enjoying the simple things

of life.

So a good cup of coffee with a dear friend

is the height of Huga.

And comfortable chairs are definitely part of the picture.

That's the vibe.

So what about the vibe before this kingdom of God

that Jesus speaks of?

And he is so excited to have this conversation.

And he is so excited to have us be part of.

Well, think back to the song that his mama

sang before he was born.

The poor will be filled with good things.

The rich sent away empty.

The tyrants will be toppled from their thrones.

And Jesus himself would pronounce blessing on the poor.

And at the very same time, he would

invite the outcast into the inner circle.

This is the rule in the realm of God.

As Jesus describes it in today's gospel reading,

it is a bit of a warning, perhaps, not to obsess over stuff

or to worry that we don't have enough.

But instead, to live as people who are generous,

as people who trust in God's goodness,

and who live in hopeful expectation that, yes,  
God is going to show up and maybe bring things  
that we don't even expect.

Remember our friend Abraham, who became Abraham?  
He and his wife, double income, no kids for like 90 years.  
And then they get one, because that was the promise  
that God made when God showed up.

I think it's salient to point out that in Abraham's lifetime,  
he only had the two--  
his stepson Ishmael and his son Isaac, Isaac.

So even this grand promise that God makes to Abraham  
isn't fulfilled in one fell swoop, is it?

But in the face of his children, it is.

When Jesus speaks about the rule in the realm of God,  
he likes to talk about things like seeds planted, where maybe  
in the nooks and crannies of life,  
the rule and realm of God, this kingdom,  
pops up unexpectedly.

And Jesus, when he tells his disciples to have no fear,  
is just getting warmed up.

Because soon, he is going to tell a couple of wild stories,  
wild stories about lost things that are found or lost people.

And find their way home.

Have no fear, little flock.

Give your scots good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Amen.