

Pastor's Bible Class

July 26, 2026

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost – Proper 12

822 “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.
of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.
ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in
The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.
that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.
the Bride - groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.
es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;
Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;
Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.
Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-9

1. In verse six, God's people are described as "holy." How can God call them "holy?" See Isaiah 43:20-21.
2. On what quality or criteria is God's choice based?
3. What historical event does Moses use to illustrate God's choice?
4. How far does God's love extend?

Read Matthew 13:44-52

5. What is another way to say, "The kingdom of heaven is like..."?
6. Dr. Jeff Gibbs writes, "Whenever a reign parable has a lone human figure acting in the symbolic narrative, that figure always represents (more generally) God or (specifically) Jesus, and when there are multiple characters the one in the central position always represents God/Jesus. The reign of God has to do chiefly with what God is doing in Israel and in the world through Jesus, and so the reign parables are centered in the present and future deeds of God in Christ." How does this perspective change the way we read and understand the parables of Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Price?
7. How does the Old Testament lesson support this Christological (Christ-centered) understanding?
8. What other verses or ideas from the Bible support this interpretation? See John 17:5 and Philippians 2:6-7.

Devotional Thought

"What Jesus is accomplishing in restoring God's reign in Israel and the world is compared to the action of a man who because he had found an object of great value, extravagantly sold all that he possessed in order to purchase that valued object and to make it his own; Jesus Himself is the man. To use language from elsewhere in the New Testament, He gave up the glory He possessed from eternity past as He emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant in His incarnation. His entire ministry, culminating in His death and resurrection, can be compared to the extravagant action of purchasing. The object of His desire and affection is His disciples; they are to Him as a treasure and an exceedingly valuable pearl. He has made them His own, and He will make them His own, giving everything in order to purchase them" (Gibbs, Jeff. Concordia Commentary: Matthew. CPH).

Prayer

Lord, thank You for choosing me to be your treasured possession. Bless me with the power of Your Spirit to live as one belonging to You. Amen.