

Greetings from God our Father, from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit Amen.

Luke 12:22-34

Sermon Title: Heavenly Father will provide

The theme verse is verse 32: ***Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*** God has given you the kingdom of heaven at your Baptism. The kingdom is the greatest and valuable gift that the Lord has given you! It is worth more than anything on this earth. You have eternal life with Him and you will be in heaven.

Jesus tells us in the Holy Gospel today 'Do not be anxious about your life.' For verses 23 and 24, ***Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.***

The first "life" in verse 23 is referring to "the day to day life, you life on earth." Do not be anxious about the stuff of daily life. In the second "life," in verse 24 refers to "Eternal life," life with and in Christ Jesus.

But we do become anxious, Why? Maybe it is the economy, you may be anxious about your job, your future—and even just making it day to day

with the basics of life: food, clothing, shelter. Jesus is telling you today that if you are anxious about any part of your life, finances, medical, relationships or the future and that anxiousness has become your main priority in your life. It is a sin. Anxiousness can and does push God to the side and you do not seek God for help; you may even think God does not provide for you. In this thinking, you have sinned—even if only for a moment.

Because out of this anxiousness of the daily living, you will neglect to have God provide for you with His Word and Sacraments. To strength and sustain your faith amidst the trails and storms of life. Neglecting God's Word and Sacraments for guidance and strength, you do think that you are providing the daily bread in your life, by yourself, your attention goes away from God and onto life things, it means that your attention is not on God and/or hearing His Word. Your attention is really on getting those things (needed things of life—and wanted things) and your energy, thoughts and strength are placed on only one thing, earthy things. Among the anxiety, you forget that your Heavenly Father provides for you graciously and out fatherly love for you, your daily bread and your spiritual bread, His Word and Sacraments. (PAUSE....wait .... Wait)

God does provide for both your physical and spiritual needs in your life. Jesus places the request, the petition, in the Lord's Supper, "give us this day our daily bread." The "daily bread" was once defined by Martin Luther that it was only the God's Word and the Lord's Supper. But later in his life he included all the needs in one's life for daily living and for all the blessings our Gracious Lord gives us. "Daily bread" would include your physical needs and God's Word and Sacraments. So our Heavenly Father does provides for you, your physical needs and spiritual needs, for Jesus tells you that the ravens do not have storehouses or barns to gather food but God the Father provides for them. And you are more valuable than the birds!

Jesus tells how beautiful the lilies of the field are clothed and King Solomon was not clothed as beautiful as these lilies and God does it. The lilies of the field are then tossed into fire after they have been (alive in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven). Jesus again tells you, "How much more will He clothe you?" Jesus continues to point to the fact that God the Father will provide for you who are more valuable than the lilies of the fields. He clothes us in the righteousness of Christ through our Baptism (thus WE are arrayed in a manner more glorious than Solomon in

all of his mere earthly glory), He provides us with an eternal, heavenly mansion in His Kingdom. These spiritual/eternal things are the MORE when Jesus says: ***For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.*** St. Paul writes in Romans 8:32, ***What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?***

“Can any of you by worrying add one hour to your life?” Can you add one hour to your life? You cannot; the Lord is the one to determine your life span on this earth. Jesus tells you that if you cannot add even one hour to your life, which is a “small thing” in your life. And if you cannot do this small thing then you surely need to lean on the God for your daily bread and your spiritual needs. And Spiritual needs is forgiveness of sins. God has told you, ***Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***

Also, Christ has told you and me that we need to place our spiritual needs, eternal life, that are fulfilled in Christ Jesus to be placed number one in your life rather than the physical needs. For the things of this life is only temporary but what Christ has done for you is for eternity.

Jesus came and died on the cross for your sin.” He was raised from the dead on the third day to be victorious over, sin, death and the devil. He being victorious, you are **also** victorious in the Lord. God the Father has sent His Son into the world that everyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior will be saved. This is the greatest act and gift given to you, God the Father giving His Son for your Salvation. God has done it all for you and for the whole world. And it is so great that we are to tell everyone about Jesus and what God has done for you. God loves you so much, that He gives you your faith as a gift and He will sustain and keep your faith safe by His Word and Sacraments. Without Him sustaining and feeding your faith, you would revert back to just seeking the things of this world. But as a child of God, saved by the blood of the lamb, heirs to the His kingdom, you are able to rejoice and continue thanking God for the blessings you have each day in Christ and for Him providing you your daily bread and your spiritual needs. You, we, also continue rejoicing in the blessings He gives you and all here today as a family of Christ. He provides for your daily bread and for your salvation to be with Him forever. For it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom where there is no more struggle or distraction from earthy stuff, so we are able to rejoice with Him at the heavenly banquet forever.

And may the peace of God, which is beyond all human comprehension, keep your hearts and minds through your faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.