

**Reverend George E. Murdaugh
2011 Sermon Titles and Themes**

Oak Road Lutheran Church

<http://www.oakroadlutheranchurch.org>

Sermon audio is available on the web at

<http://www.websermons.org/>

January 2, 2011 - It's Our Father's Business

Joseph and Mary's search and location of Jesus in the temple precincts with the rabbis gives us a picture into how our lives ought to be in pursuit of the Jesus, so as to know our Father's business.

January 9, 2011 - Baptized into Christ for a Witness

We have a calling from our baptism to be about the mission that Jesus launched there in the Jordan River.

January 16, 2011 - Refuge of Sinners

Just as God set up the Cities of Refuge in the Promised Land of the Old Testament, He has set up the City of Refuge in the New Testament, the Church of Jesus Christ.

January 23, 2011 - Calling, Sending, Going

Jesus called fishermen to be his disciples, because he intended to fish for people. We need to be fishing for people to know and follow Jesus Christ today.

January 30, 2011 - Rejoice and Be Glad

Everyone who starts on a program to become proficient at some skill usually has the intention of reaching an ultimate goal--to be very good if not the best. Is that our goal when it comes to the things of the Kingdom of God? Do we want to be the best at the Beatitudes.

February 6, 2011 - Wisdom of God

We are all impressed by knowledge, in whatever field of endeavor. The wisdom imparted by God's grace is not like anything that comes from this world system.

February 13, 2011 - Relax: God Is in Control

Life is a challenge, or a series of challenges for most people. But what would our challenging lives be like if we allowed God to be in control?

February 20, 2011 - Perfect as Your Heavenly Father Is Perfect

Do you think Jesus takes sin seriously? Do you take Jesus' words seriously?

February 27, 2011 - Counter-Cultural Christianity

Is the gospel really counter cultural? Is there a subversive, revolutionary, unruly aspect to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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March 6, 2011 - Pay Attention!

Are you paying attention to the Transfiguration? Do you know what happened, what Jesus did, who was there and what went on? Are you paying attention to Jesus?

March 13, 2011 - How to Handle Temptation

How do we handle temptations? Jesus is our model for dealing with temptations; but He is more than just a model to follow, He is our Savior who is will to be with us in the midst of our temptations.

March 20, 2011 - Emerging from the Night of Ignorance

Of all the 4 Gospels in the Bible, the Gospel according to St. John demonstrates best the theme of Jesus as Teacher/Savior who brings folks out of the night of ignorance into the light of God's glorious truth.

March 27, 2011 - Leading the Lost to Messiah

Let's take a look at the parables of the lost in Luke 15.

April 17, 2011 - The Jesus Magnet

Jesus is God's magnet to draw all humanity into a life-change and eternal relationship with God.

April 22, 2011- Good Friday - Even Death on a Cross

In a culture consumed with denying its mortality, we commemorate Good Friday, remembering Who died for us and making plans for our own death in a way that affects ever the seemingly unimportant things of daily life now.

April 24, 2011- Easter - An Empty Tomb

When you examine the historical claims concerning the resurrection of the man known then as Jesus of Nazareth (or the Nazarene) we find irrefutable historical proofs for this astonishing event: The Resurrection of Jesus the Christ from the dead on the first day of week after He was executed on a Roman cross.

May 1, 2011 - Security of Faith

Let's examine Thomas the Apostle and what happened in his life when he encountered the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

May 8, 2011 - On the Road Again

What can we learn about ourselves as we travel with Jesus and a couple of His disciples on a 7-mile long stretch of road from Jerusalem to Emmaus?

May 15, 2011 - Sheep on the Brink Are in Need of a Good Shepherd

One of the more meaningful images of Jesus in the New Testament is that of the Good Shepherd and us as His beloved sheep. The truth is, we need a Good Shepherd, because we are on the brink ourselves, on the edge, whether we know it or not.

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May 22, 2011 - Very Special People

What does it mean when St. Peter in his First Letter calls us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession? Sounds like we are pretty special, no? Well, how are we to take this Good News?

May 29, 2011 - Spirit of Truth

Do you know the Holy Spirit? Could describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit, if someone asked you? Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit in John 14.

June 5, 2011 - We Can Never Outgrow God

Despite what atheists such as Alan Jeskin suggests in his book, Outgrowing God, we will never outgrow our need, our connection, and our wonder of the One True God and His Son Jesus Christ.

June 13, 2011- Power

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Jerusalem millennia ago was marked with overwhelming power. This first "Christian" Pentecost was an experience of elemental force.

June 19, 2011- Sincere Fathers

Let's highlight 5 qualities of a sincere father: sincere faith; sincere service; sincere testimony; sincere repentance; and sincere obedience (discipleship).

June 26, 2011 - What It Means to Be ALL IN

The kind of love that we encounter from Jesus Christ and are encouraged to demonstrate in our own lives is one of total commitment. It is to be "all in" for the sake of love.

July 3, 2011 – Freedom

America celebrates her most precious holiday--Independence Day, or more appropriately perhaps, Freedom Day. How as a church should we celebrate this day? How should we proclaim freedom?

July 10, 2011 - In Parables

The Gospels tell us that Jesus taught the crowds only using parables. Do we understand this style of teaching today? Maybe we don't. Perhaps a closer look at the story of the sower and the seed would be appropriate.

July 17, 2011 - We Don't Know How to Pray as We Ought

As a follower of Jesus Christ, who though He was equal to God emptied Himself and became a servant, we find our power in weakness. St. Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 12:10, "For when I am weak then I am strong." In Rom. 8 we learn that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness to pray as we ought.

July 24, 2011 - Love: the Glue of God

Separation brings pain and loss. We all have some experience of that in our lives. Yet, in Rom.

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8 we are told that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

July 31, 2011 - You Can't Win

How does it make you feel when you are told you can't win, no matter what you try to do? It is Christ who gives us the victory. We are only winners when we are in Him.

August 7, 2011 - Do You Really Believe

There is a big difference in confessing one's faith in Jesus Christ with the lips, and quite another thing to put that to the test everyday by the way we conduct ourselves in the face of this world's challenges to actually live and act out our profession. Let's move from corporate confession of faith to daily taking individual responsibility to live out that faith in an hostile world.

August 14, 2011 - 3 Things You Must Know - 1 Question You Must Answer

The Christian heritage is not being passed on to the succeeding generation. The result is a moral malaise in our society, which has brought our nation to the loss of blessings that God had once so generously bestowed upon us. So, what can I do to help restore the Christian heritage and God's blessings to my country?

August 21, 2011 - Blueprint of a Christian Life

What is a Christian? In Romans 12, St. Paul gives us a good description of a Christian.

August 28, 2011 - Building a Christian Life

If we can say that Jesus is the Architect of the Christian Life (the one who gives us the blueprint), then we can say that the Holy Spirit is the General Contractor who works the blueprint into a Temple of God.

September 4, 2011 - Like Little Children

Exactly what was Jesus getting at when He said the His disciples must be like little children to enter the Kingdom of God?

September 11, 2011 thru October 2, 2011 - Sermon recording unavailable

October 9, 2011- The Future of Giving - Part 1

Several research groups have reported that in recent years church giving, including tithing has shown a downward trend in the U.S. What are we to make of this?

October 16, 2011- The Future of Giving - Part 2

Let's explore the six leading principles in the theology of money.

October 23, 2011 - How We Love God

Jesus gives the parameters of how to love God and how that is translated in to loving others as

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much--or more--than we love ourselves. The short of it is that we ought to love God with our whole being--heart (will), soul, and mind.

October 30, 2011 - Salvation Unto Us Has Come

What does the great and free salvation that Jesus Christ has won for us mean to us, really? Let's explore the great Reformation truths Paul Speratus put into his hymn, "Es ist das Heil uns kommen her"--"Salvation Unto Us Has Come."

November 6, 2011 - Blessed Are They...

As we look at the familiar text of Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes, let's focus on what it means to be blessed in the kingdom of heaven.

November 13, 2011 - Fight the Good Fight

We are to be in solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters around the world who continue to be persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

November 20, 2011 - The Last Day, Part 1 of 7 Parts

Are we living in the Last Days--what are the signs?

November 24, 2011 Thanksgiving Day - Thanksgiving: A Way of Life

We ought to have a habit of thanking God at all times, not just on one day a year set aside by our nation.

November 27, 2011 - The Death of Truth, Part 2 of 7 Parts

How important is truth? It is the essential ingredient in community.

December 4, 2011 - Redefining Evil, Part 3 of 7 Parts

Is there really a proper distinction in our culture between what is good and what is evil; or has evil been so redefined as to make a clear distinction impossible.

December 11, 2011 - Spiritual Dullness, Part 4 of 7 Parts

The death of truth and the redefining of evil have resulted in spiritual dullness in our society--a society that weeps more loudly over the death of pilot whales than the 1.2 million human beings annually slaughtered in their mothers' wombs.

December 24, 2011 - The Death of Religion and the Birth of Faith

The First Christmas in Bethlehem so long ago was indubitably the death of religion. It was the birth of something new, some One new, who changed everything in the most profound ways.

December 25, 2011 – Christmas Day Sermon

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