

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020 – 10 am



AS WE GATHER: We read today about three servants. All three received a good and gracious gift from their master. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two reflected the goodness and faithfulness of their master. One

refused to act like his master and was punished for his insolence. Consider Jesus, our good and faithful Master, and all that He has done for us and our salvation. As we follow Him, we reflect His goodness and faithfulness.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: You have been our good and faithful Master.

Pastor: You have poured out blessings upon us.

People: You have given us all we need to support this body and life.

Pastor: We meditate on all that You have done.

People: We ponder the work of Your hands.

Pastor: On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.

People: In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Indeed, our heavenly Father has done wonderful things for us. He has given us more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Yet, there have been times when we have been ungrateful for God's gifts, times when we have been lazy and selfish with what He has given us, times when we have been unfaithful servants. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not been faithful with all of the good gifts You have given us. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be restored as Your servants.

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to be with you always. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

People: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

Pastor: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

People: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Pastor: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

People: For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

HYMN OF PRAISE

“In Thee Is Gladness”

#818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



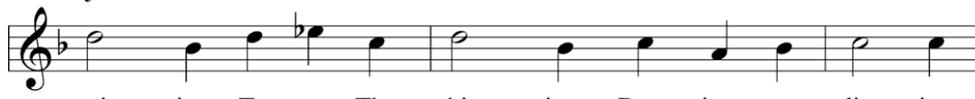
heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You are our good and faithful Master. Thank You for the abundance of blessings You have poured into our lives. Strengthen us by Your mighty power, that we might serve You well and faithfully; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 1:7–16* (The Day of the Lord is near.)

The Day of the LORD Is Near

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will

search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³ Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11* (Let us live as children of the light.)

The Day of the Lord

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 25:29a*

Pastor: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People: **For to ev'ryone who has will more be given,
and he will have an abundance. Alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14–30* (The parable of the talents)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering

where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Apostles’ Creed*

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from
the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty. From thence
He will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing #691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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SERMON “Good and Faithful Servants” - Matthew 25:14–30

OFFERING HYMN Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word #655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, disease and devastation have infected so much of Your creation, but we know Your healing is always

close at hand. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, and injustice, [*especially . . .*] Heal them according to Your will, and send justice for the oppressed. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

[*additional local petitions spoken here . . .*]

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In Him there is no dark - ness at all.

The night and the day are both a - like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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