

Popular Parables *of* Jesus



*Talents Given
Talents Returned*

Sunday, April 6



Prelude & Confession

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Most holy and merciful God,*

**C: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

C: We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenience and comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and, in this way, we limit the power you have in our lives. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We let other voices speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace.

C: We have been tempted to turn away from the truth you offer us. We have doubted your presence, your power and your promise. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us.

C: We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can

be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, or are in despair, or deprived of what they need to live. We have found security in protecting and preserving our abundant blessings. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

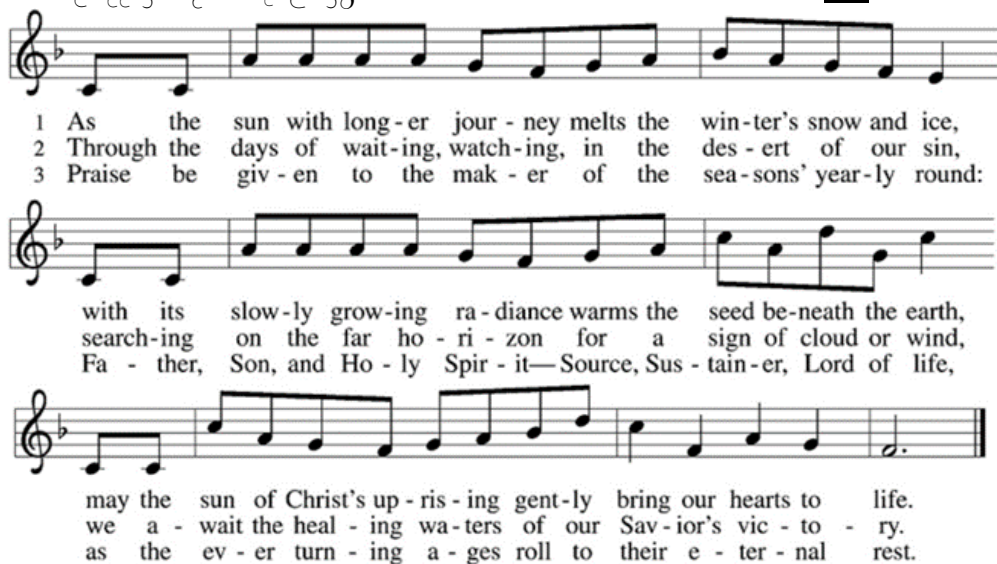
C: We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail to seek the wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life. Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them.

C: We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

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1 As the sun with long-er jour - ney melts the win-ter's snow and ice,
 2 Through the days of wait-ing, watch-ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
 3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year-ly round:

with its slow-ly grow-ing ra - diance warms the seed be-neath the earth,
 search-ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain-er, Lord of life,

may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent-ly bring our hearts to life.
 we a - wait the heal - ing wa-ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.
 as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Almighty God, in the parables, your son, our savior, spoke the truth about your kingdom. Through the characters of these stories, we are called to reflect on the faithfulness of our own character. As we now wait patiently and expectantly for the fullness of your Kingdom to finally be manifested, energize us to use the gifts we have received now, in this age, to produce the good things that inspire confident hope in the blessings of that age to come. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Malachi 3

You have wearied Adonai, the Lord, with your words and still you ask, "how have we wearied the Lord?"

By saying, "All who do *evil* are good in the sight of Adonai, the Lord, and he delights in *them*."

Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

Listen! *I am* sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and Adonai, the Lord, whom you seek will suddenly come to The Temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, that messenger is coming, says Adonai, the Lord, of hosts.

But who can endure the day of the Lord's coming, and who can stand when the Lord appears? For, the Lord is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. The Lord will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and the Lord will purify the religious and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to Adonai, the Lord, in righteousness. Then what the Lord's people offer to the Lord will be pleasing again to Adonai, the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near for judgment. I will be swift to bear witness against those who have thought they were the ones who manipulated and deceived others for their own gains; and against those who claimed a close and intimate relationship with me, but who gave their hearts to other gods in their lives; and against those claim to obediently follow my ways and my words, while knowing their own hypocrisy; against those who profit from participating in an economic system that exploits and oppresses the vulnerable and powerless; and against those who look down on and ignore the refugee in their land; and against those who do not respect and honor me, says Adonai, the Lord of the Heavenly Army.

L: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Lord, you have been our refuge in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

*You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."*

**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**

*You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.*

**For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.**

*You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.*

**Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!**

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*

**Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

*Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.*

**Let the favor of Adonai, the Lord, our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands--
O prosper the work of our hands!**

Second Lesson

James 2

What is the benefit, my friends, if you may say that you have "faith," but then may not do any "works?" Faith does not manifest salvation for you by itself - does it? For, if a brother or sister is not adequately clothed and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace! Keep warm! Eat your fill!" and then you do not

give them what is necessary for the body, what good is that to them or to you? So, “faith” is as good as dead if it is not manifested in works. Some of you say, “You have works and I have faith.” Well, you can try to show me your faith apart from your works, but I, by my works, can certainly show you my faith. For instance, you believe that God is one – indeed, this is faith – but even the demons have this faith - and they shudder from their honest belief in this truth!! Do you wish to know, O empty person, how “faith” apart from “works” is inactive? Then, just remember our ancestor Abraham and how God proclaimed him to be “righteous” by the “work” he did in manifesting his “faith” in God when Abraham went up the mountain fully intending to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on the altar as God had commanded? [Gen 22:1-19] Pay attention to how this is a fine example of how Abraham’s “faith” was active along with his works, and how “faith” is brought to completion by “works.” Maybe now you can understand that a person’s righteousness must be manifested in works that flow from faith and by faith on its own. Another example of this is Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho, who was declared righteous by manifesting her faith in doing the good work of welcoming and protecting God’s agents when they came into her hostile city and then sent them back to their people safely by another road. For just as the “body” without the “Spirit” is “dead,” so “faith” without “works” is also “dead.”

L: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Verse



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 19

But as the disciples were listening to Jesus speak about the necessity of his suffering, dying and rising, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they were thinking that the kingdom of God was about to come to light. So Jesus said, "A certain well-born, dignified, courageous, and open-minded man went to a distant country to receive his kingdom and then return. But before he left, he called ten of his slaves and gave each of them a minas – let's call it \$100 - and said to them, 'Do what is practical with these while I am away.'

Now, the citizens of this man's kingdom hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'It is not our will for him to be "king" over us.'

When this man returned from receiving the kingdom, he gathered before himself those slaves he had given the silver to, so that he may know the results of their practical action.

And the first slave came forward saying, 'Lord, your one mina has been the source of ten mina.'

And the man said to him, 'Rejoice, good slave. Because in a tiniest thing you have been faithful, you now have authority over ten communities.'

Then the second slave came, saying, 'Your mina, Lord, made five mina.'

And the man said also to him, 'And you, be over five communities.'

And then the other came, saying, 'Lord, behold, your one mina which I have removed from service by wrapping it in a death-veil, for, I am afraid of you, because you are an austere man; you take what you did not put there, and reap what you did not sow.'

The man then said to this slave, 'From your own mouth I will judge you, evil slave. You have known that I was an austere man, taking what I did not put there and reaping what I did not sow? Then how do you explain why you did not give my silver to the bankers and, by the time I had returned, it would have performed in earning some interest?

Then the man said to those standing by, 'Take the mina from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' (And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!') 'I tell you, all who are having, more will be given; but from those who do not have, even what they have will be taken away. Moreover, those who hate me and are not willing to have me be king over them--bring them here and slay them in front of me.'

After Jesus told this parable he continued forward, going up to Jerusalem.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon & Hymn of the Day



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.



Apostles Creed

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: We do with the help of God.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

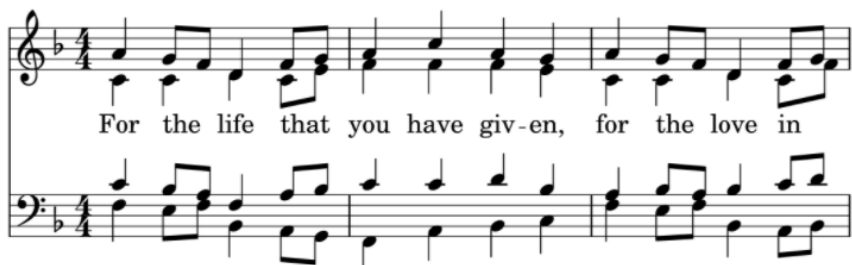
P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived of the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

The Prayers of the Church & Passing of the Peace Offertory



4

Christ made known, with these fruits of time and la - bor,

7

with these gifts that are your own: here we offer, Lord, our praises;

11

heart and mind and strength we bring; give us grace to

4

love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: Accept, O Lord, these gifts that we bring in gratitude this day; offerings from the abundant blessings we have received. May they be pleasing in your sight, that you will continue to look kindly on us and our needs, and that they may serve the need of manifesting your Kingdom in this age. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

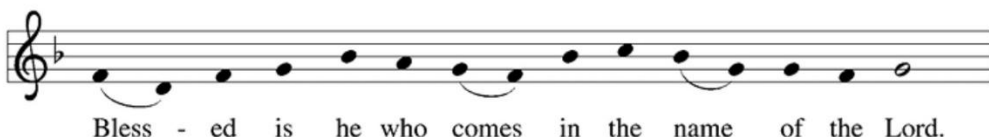
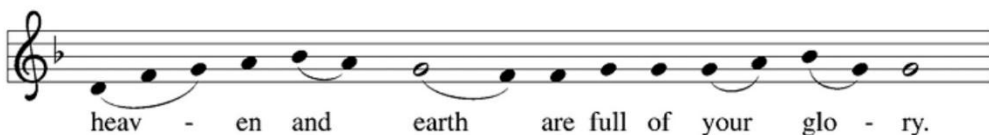
Great Thanksgiving

S 161



P: It is right . . .

S 162



P: Holy God, we give you thanks and praise, for even in the midst of our turning away from you, you call to us . . .

The Lord's Prayer

S 163

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

S 164

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns

681, 685, 696

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;

take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction & Recessional

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Dismissal

HOLY WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday

Children's Palm Parade
Dramatic Reading of Christ's Pasion
8:30 & 11:00

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner Gathering
7:00 p.m. Great Prayers of the Bible
Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Maundy Thursday

Noon & 7:00 p.m.
The Last Supper
Scripture, Hymns & Communion

Good Friday

Noon : Tenebrae Seven Last Words
Scripture, Hymns & the Extinguishing of the Candles
7:00 p.m. The Death of the Savior
Scripture, Readings, Hymns and Sealing of the Church

Holy Saturday

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
Creation Fire, Readings, Affirmation of Baptism
Procession, Unsealing, Easter Eucharist