



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

HOW DO YOU TRUST WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN?

*The Penultimate Parable in Our Summer Series:
Jesus' Parables in Matthew*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th
Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prelude & Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of the brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

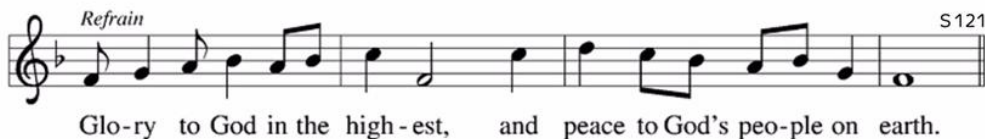


P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2





1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Prayer of the Day

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: A people holy to the Lord our God.

A: We have seen what our God has done

C: We declare God's faithfulness from age to age for all time.

A: We hear and keep God's Word,

C: And all that God has spoken we will do.

P: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, in an overflowing expression of love from You and Your Son, Jesus, you have endowed us with the Spirit, empowering us to witness to our identity as Your people through our works and words. Stir up that Spirit within us, that we embrace the courage to do good works and speak gracious words, not being fearful or skeptical of experiencing anything but Your blessing in return. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

LESSON

Zephaniah 1

The Prophet Zephaniah spoke the Word of the Lord to the citizens of the city of Nineveh, saying . . .

Be silent before the Lord God! For the "Day of the Lord" is at hand . . . At that time I *will* search Jerusalem with lamps, and I *will* punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs - those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will neither do good, nor will the Lord do harm." *Their* wealth *will* be plundered, and *their* houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they *will not* inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they *will not* drink wine from them. The great "Day of the Lord" is near - near and hastening fast! The sound of the "Day of the Lord" is bitter - the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty

battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they will walk like the blind - because they have sinned against the Lord - their blood will be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath - in the fire of the Lord's passion the whole earth will be consumed - for a full - a terrible end - the Lord *will* make of *all* the inhabitants of the earth.

R: The word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place 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.
For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.*

*The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

**Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.**

*So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.*

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

LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5

Paul writes . . . But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters . . . Be at peace in yourselves! . . . Admonish the disorderly! Encourage those who think they just can't do it! Be devoted to the weak! Be patient with all! See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always pursue the good in one another and all! Always rejoice! Constantly pray! In all things give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not extinguish the Spirit! Do not despise prophecy! But scrutinize everything! Cling to the good, but stay away from every appearance of evil! The God of peace make you entirely holy and complete, that we will keep the spirit and the soul and the body blameless in the returning of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who is calling you is faithful, and Christ will do this!

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Verse

ELW Setting 3
S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 25

The Parable of the Servants

During his last hours in the Temple in Jerusalem, just before being handed over to the Jewish Religious Authorities by Judas on the Mt. of Olives, Jesus told this second parable in a series of three parables about the Kingdom of the Heavens: "For, it is just like a man, who, travelling away from his home and his people, calls his servants together and hands over to them what he was possessing. To one of the servants he gives five talents (which is worth about 15 years pay for a laborer, or the equivalent of about \$500,000 for a minimum waged laborer today), but to another, two talents, and to another, one - each according to their power and then he travels away from his home and his people.

Going out, the receiving the five talents works with them, and he gains another five. Likewise, the one with two gains another two. But the one receiving one, going away, digs the ground and keeps his lord's silver a secret.

After a long time, the lord of those slaves comes and settles his word with them. And coming up, the one receiving five talents brings up another five talents saying, 'Lord, you handed over to me five talents - behold! - I have gained another five talents.' His lord says to him, 'It is well, good and faithful slave! - over little you are faithful, over much will I put you in charge. Enter into the grace, delight and charity of your master.'

And coming up, the one receiving two talents brings up another two talents saying, 'Lord, you handed over to me two talents - behold! - I have gained another two talents.'

His lord says to him, 'It is well, good and faithful slave! - over little you are faithful, over much will I put you in charge. Enter into the grace, delight and charity of your master.'

But the one receiving the one talent coming up says, 'Lord, I know you are a hard man - harvesting where you have not planted, and collecting produce where you have not scattered seed - so I was

fearful, and going away, I secreted your talent in the ground - behold! - have what is yours.'

But responding, his lord says to him, 'You evil and feckless slave! You see me as someone who harvests where I have not planted, and who collects produce where I have not scattered seed? Then, isn't it obvious that at the very least you would have thrown my silver to the moneychangers and, coming back, I would now receive what was mine with interest! Therefore, take the talent from him and give it to the one having the ten talents. For, to the one having, all will be given - in abundance! But the one not having - what they have will be taken away from him. And the useless and profitable servant - throw into the "Outer Darkness," - there will be "The Weeping & The Gnashing of Teeth."'

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

In Spirit-Grace

[tune: 644]

In Spirit-Grace, we're standing tall,
With gifts endowed, we heed God's call,
We toil with love, our hands ablaze,
In service bright, through all our days.

With skills diverse, we're richly blessed,
With Christ's own cross, we are impressed,
We use our gifts, both great and small,
To answer now our Savior's call.

In harmony, we work as one,
The Spirit's guides, our course is run,
With purpose clear, we labor on,
Until the race of life is won.

So let our deeds, like incense rise,
To reach to realms beyond our eyes,
In good work done, our spirits sing,
And honor God, our heavenly King.

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace & Offering / Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us Pray

C: God of grace and abundance, we joyfully offer these gifts of thanks for your blessings in our lives. We pray that you find

what we bring in this moment to be an acceptable and adequate reflection of our gratitude, that you will continue to look on us as your faithful people, worthy of your favor and beneficence. And with humbleness in the face of our hubris, we beg your forgiveness for our lack of attention, respect and care for all you provide. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 3 S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed . . .

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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. Forgive us our
 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory
 now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

574, 579, 580



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,	I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,	I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,	I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin	my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them.	They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them.	My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night,	I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone,	give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide	till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them?	Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them.	Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them.	Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

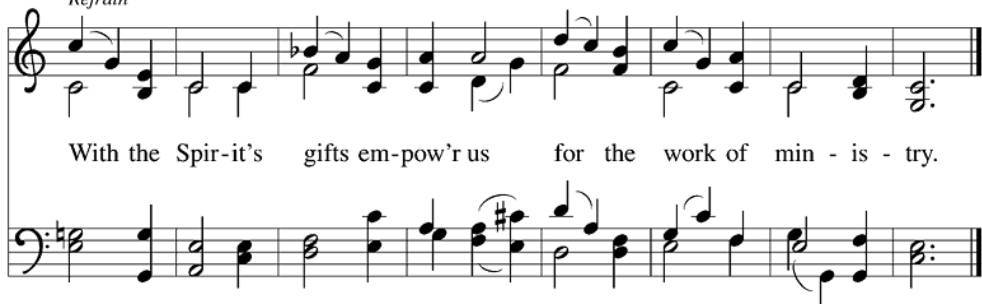
1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin-dranc-es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re - stored,
if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.





Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, September 20

Last Day to Order Memorial Bricks

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class

9:45 a.m. Post-Confirmation Student Meeting

10:00 a.m. Favorite Hymn Sing-a-long in fellowship hall

11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, September 21

10:00 a.m. Grace Book Club – hosted by Margaret Swift

Tuesday, September 22

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study in fellowship hall

7:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid

3:00 p.m. Bible Study 101 Lite – w/ Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris - online

Wednesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Club

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Thursday, September 24

6:00 p.m. Grace Dining Out @ Barnwood Grill

Sunday, September 27

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class/Post-Confirmation class meeting

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship