Prayer and Praises" is your personal invitation to join with the Prayer Ministry of our church in daily prayer. If you would like someone to stay on the prayer list, please call the church office at 760-247-7392, put your request on the prayer cards in the church, or go on-line at www.ascensionav.org. Otherwise, names will be removed after two months.

ACCORDING TO THEIR NEED:

Carol Buchanan
Gaylon Pastella
Marvin Eisenbeiss
Roger Hall
Charlene Krentz
Renee Moore
Linda Rogers
Lonny Stumbaugh
All Churches
Rita Barris
Jennifer Brecht
Darlene Castro

Francis Durfee & Family

Esther
Riley Faith
George Filkins
Josh Garcia & Family
Government
Marty Hall

Richard Connors

Lori Davis

Jason Hollling Pam Kaiser Linda Kaufman Jennifer LaRue

Lynn Judy Meadows

Beth Mills

Tim & Marguerite Pastella Lynda Porter Jesse Renterias Dave Riffel Carol Schmidt Sterling Skiffington

Mary Smith
Gwen Strasburg
Annette Strintz

Denise Turner & Family Kathrine Walker

Joe Yancho

Kenny Cabral Kevin Smith Mo & Rocky Gamas Gary Harrell Steve Martines Carolyn Penna Mildred Sears Nikki Stumbaugh Brendan Anderson Deanna Batts John Buracznski

Coronavirus Victims Michael Dennis Dwight & Pam Easley Janice Estrick

Rachel Clark

Kimberly Finch Gary Fleener George Michael Green

Pastor Harris Rob Jackson Scott Kaiser John & Connie Kay

John & Connie Kay Nicholas LaTrace

Mariana
Military
Cindy Nielsen
Braylee Perez
Nevin Purbaugh
Resurrection Lutheran
Martin Rivera
Eric Schmidt

Daisy Smith June Spradlin

Kevin Strassburg & Family

Ora Thomas Sue Twarowski Marjorie Wilson Eileen Yerby Pat Lorenzen Detwiler Family Rick & Didi Gift Lillian Halverson Beverly Moglich Judy Pepper

Barbara Stumbaugh Angela Alder Kevin Barnes Tracy Beam Carrie Congregation

Congregation
Daisy
Gene Dooner
Joy Ely
Lynn Fairgrief
Firefighters
Hoot Gibson

Grace Lutheran Church

Jeanne Hecksel Sandy Jurey

Debbie Gottlieb

Kari

Linda Kienle Matthew Lewis

Mark

Jennifer Millgate Kayla Overmyer Rita Poole Michelle Rawlins Amy Reyes

Carla Rosen Ernie Schmidt Dylan Smith Mike Stewart Terry Strey

President & Melania Trump Donna & Chuck Wagers Ron Winkler & Family

GRIEF & STRENGTH:

Dennis Dobyns Family



About the Cover: The master entrusted his servants with large amounts of money. It was to be put to good use, not buried. In the same way, our Lord has given us the great treasure of His Word and many other gifts to be put to use and invested into the lives of others. All the while, the results are in His hands, just as we ourselves are in the hands of our gracious Master.

Master, you delivered to me five talents Matthew 25:20



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

22130 Ottawa Rd. Apple Valley, CA. 92308 Phone: (760) 247-7392, FAX: (760) 247-9014 Pastor@ascensionav.org; office@ascensionav.org Website: www.ascensionav.org Rev. James Harris, Pastor 9:15 a.m. Service

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 a.m. Drive-In Service November 15, 2020 93.5 FM DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE: Page 151

Thoughts as we gather

The texts appointed for the end of the Church Year focus on the return of Jesus and His judgment of the living and dead. This theme began last week with Jesus' words at the beginning of Matthew 25 and the parable of the ten virgins (vv 1–13). It continues this week with the parable of the talents (vv 14–30) and concludes next week with Jesus' teaching about the sheep and goats (vv 31–46). Focus on Jesus' return leads to several distinct (and opposite) attitudes among Christians. On the one hand, we long for His return and the full realization of His reign over the new heavens and earth. So, we pray that Jesus would come quickly. On the other hand, the reality that so many people in our families and communities are living apart from Jesus creates in us a desire for Jesus graciously to delay His return until they have heard and believed the good news. So, we pray fervently for God to work through the Church to bring more into His fold. Preaching at the end of the Church Year does well to bring about both an expectant hope for Jesus to return and an urgency in the Church's mission.

The *Old Testament Reading* and the *Psalm* for this Sunday both match up with the latter. Zephaniah speaks of the urgency of repentance before the judgment of Yahweh against disobedient people (Zeph 1:7–16), and the Psalm points out the brevity of human life (Ps 90:3–12). In the *Epistle*, Paul also highlights the approaching end (1 Thess 5:1–8). But he emphasizes the good news of salvation for all who live in Christ (5:9–11).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be sure to sign the registration book at the end of the pew. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the Narthex, please include your address and home church. If this is your first time attending Holy Communion at Ascension, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder prior to the service.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

If you have cards outstanding (with food items you are going to buy), please have these items to us no later than next Sunday, November 22, 2020. Thank you for your generosity!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Bible Study is November 18, 2020, we will be resuming our Wednesday morning Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are REQUIRED—NO EXCEPTIONS.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

The next meeting of the Small Group Bible Study will be held on Friday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the DeRose home. We will be studying Exodus Chapters 35 and 36.

PANTRY

The pantry is in need of dry boxed cereal. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Sun. (11/15)	9:15 a.m.	Drive-In Worship
Wed. (11/18)	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Fri. (11/20)	7:00 p.m.	Small Group Bible Study
Sun. (11/22)	9:15 a.m.	Drive-In Worship
ATTENDANCE:		
11/08/2020	8:30 a.m.	61

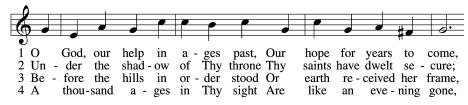
OFFERING:

Needed weekly:	\$ 3,880.00	Needed YTD	\$ 174,600.00
Received 11/08/20	\$ 4,065.00	Rec'vd YTD	\$ 137,237.40
Over	\$ 185.00	Short	\$ (37,362.60)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1-6





Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, And our e - ter - nal home: Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure. From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same. Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!

Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die 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.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1

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

Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands.

I stretch out my hands to You;

my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

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.

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

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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SERVING SERVICE TODAY:

ELDER Ken Porter
HEAD USHER Bruce Benson

SUNDAY READINGS

The readings for Sunday, November 22, 2020 are:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a (antiphon: v. 7a) 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Matthew 25:31-46

STEWARDSHIP: November 15 - Proper 28

Matthew 25:30a – "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness." Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master. So, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse. Since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

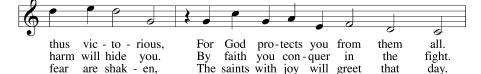


- 1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em-ploy you,
- 2 Cast a far this world's vain plea sure 3 Wise - ly fight, for time is fleet - ing;
- O Chris-tians, lest the And bold ly strive for The hours of grace are





Wield God's Word, the weap - on glo - rious; A - gainst all foes be Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, When the Lord the dead will wak - en And sin - ners all by







Joy a - waits you. The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield Joy a - waits you. The race well run, Your long war won, Scorn and tri - al. Our Sav - ior King His own will bring



KYRIE LSB 152

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.





Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION LSB 166

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

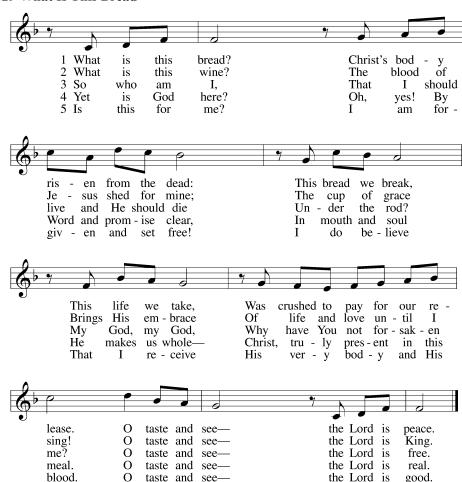
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.



6

629 What Is This Bread



In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

→ in peace.

Tune and text: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000276

C Amen.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY





P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

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,

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.' ¹³Their 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." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵A 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, 16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

This is the Word of the Lord.Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 90:1-12; antiphon: v. 17

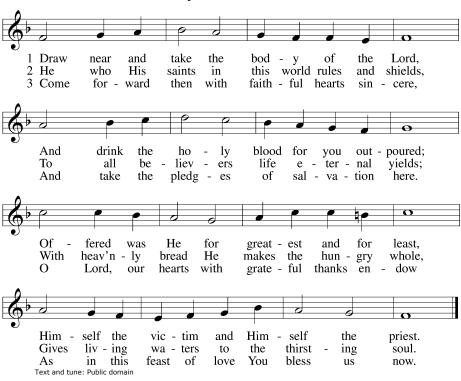
¹Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

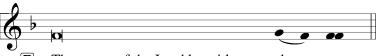
²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

³You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"
⁴For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

⁵You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:
⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

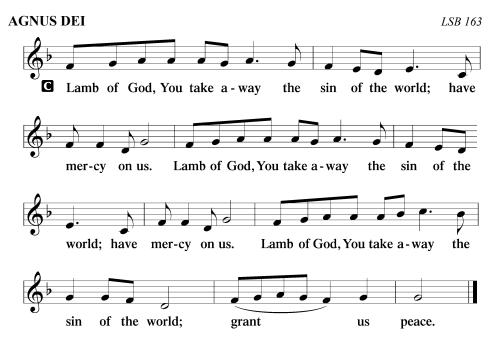
637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord





P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.





DISTRIBUTION

⁷For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.
⁸You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

⁹For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
¹⁰The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
¹¹Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While 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. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁶For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁶But 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. ⁶For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14–30

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



¹⁴[Jesus said:] "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 sowed 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."

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER LSB 162

- **P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 evil.

 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My Holood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



- 1 The day is sure ly draw-ing near When Je sus, God's a-noint ed, 2 The fi nal trum-pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak en,
- 3 The books are o-pened then to all, A rec-ord tru-ly tell-ing
- 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car nal plea-sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap-And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was Who here de-spised His pre-cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's aldwell-ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be trea - sures! With shame and trem-bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As might - y, bound-less pow'r, Be known as they have been In judg - e's stern com-mand To Scrip - ture long has warned us. changed at His com-mand - ing. thoughts and words and ac - tions.

Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

- 6 May Christ our intercessor be
 And through His blood and merit
 Read from His book that we are free
 With all who life inherit.
 Then we shall see Him face to face,
 With all His saints in that blest place
 Which He has purchased for us.
- O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
 But hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way
 In fear and tribulation.
 O hear and grant our fervent plea:
 Come, mighty judge, and set us free
 From death and ev'ry evil.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Statement

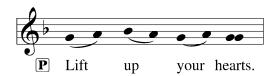
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder.

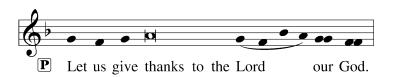
PREFACE LSB 160







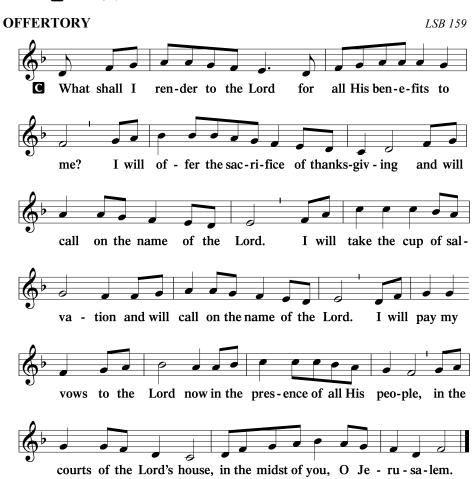




Give to the sick healing, to the suffering relief, to the grieving hope and to the dying peace. Hear us especially on behalf of those who have requested our prayers [especially ______]. Sustain us in the day of trial, deliver us from all our enemies of body and soul, and keep us steadfast in the day of trouble.

Remembering that here we have no abiding city but heaven is our home, give us Your aid so that we may by true faith and godly life prepare for the coming of our Savior, doing the works You have called us to do and accomplishing Your purpose in our daily lives. Help us to multiply Your mercy by loving our neighbor in need and loving You with all our body, soul, strength and will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



SERMON TEXT: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON THEME: A Good and Faithful Master

ROOM FOR SERVICE NOTES:

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

> And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, everlasting Father, You are worthy of being praised for all Your gifts and graces, which You have given to us, Your unworthy people. Hear us this day as we cry to You for mercy toward all people as they have need.

You have made us Your people and preserved us through the ministry of Your Word and Sacraments. Continue to pour out upon us grace upon grace, that we may be kept in faith and guarded in hope. Make Your Church throughout the world one in doctrine, confession and life, and give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your Word with conviction. Deliver us from confusion and error by the power of Your Holy Spirit, and raise up those who will continue to serve in faithfulness and humility. Deliver all enemies of Your Church and convert their hearts to repentance and faith. Strengthen all Christians in their faith and in their vocation of service as Your children, that we may be obedient to Your Word and receive the salvation of our souls.

Deliver the nations from oppression and ungodly rulers and governments. Bless all in authority within our own nation, that righteousness may flourish and injustice end. Bless all those places where Your people teach and learn, that our children may honor You, walk in Your commands, and show forth in their lives the fruits of the Spirit.

Prevent all disaster and calamity, deliver us from war and violence, and spare us from pestilence. Help us to know and rejoice in the good fruits of the earth, bless all noble occupations, and help the arts to flourish, that our lives may be enriched by beauty. Help us to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of the earth You supply for our common good.

Receive with our song of praise and sacrifice of thanksgiving the tithes and offerings we bring, that, through good use of the skills, talents and time You have given us, You may be glorified in all we are and do.

Give unity to Your people, that we may not be divided in doctrine or witness, and grant us grace, that we may come to the Lord's table and receive there the body and blood of our Lord Jesus in sincere repentance and faith.