

Sunday November 15, 2020

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements:

Gathering Hymn: ELW 723 *“Canticle of the Turning”*

Greeting: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie and This is the Feast:

Prayer of the Day: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 – 18

A reading from Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. 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 not do good, nor will he do harm.”

Their wealth 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. 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 shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall 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 his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130: *"Remember Your Love"*

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11

A reading from First Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore

encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit. **Alleluia.**

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14 – 30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily: As the Church Year draws to a close, our Gospel readings from Saint Matthew become very challenging to hear. At times, the Gospel writer's words seem very harsh.

The writer of Matthew's Gospel felt strongly that God has given us many gifts, skills and talents to use. He had little patience for Christians who were apathetic or lazy, or who were not committed to Christ and his Church. He also firmly believed that we were not to be fearful and timid in living our faith; we are to trust God and be bold and courageous in using our talents, skills and resources to serve Christ and his Church.

The servant who hid his resources away – buried his talent in the ground, provokes his master's anger. St. Matthew's Gospel proclaims that his hiding his gifts away made him worthless...those are harsh words indeed.

His excuse was that he was fearful. He did not want to take any risks. He also did not think very highly of his master either. He did not expect any forgiveness if he failed, so he took what he thought was the safe and easy route – hiding away what he had been given.

Lutherans come to today's Gospel with a unique perspective. We firmly believe that God is gracious, merciful, and slow to anger. Believing in the essential goodness of God, we are free to use our gifts, skills and talents to the best of our ability. As a Church and as Christians, we will make mistakes, errors in judgement and even some bad choices... but we will do so faithfully. We will not always be successful in what we do; but we will be faithful.

It's always heartening to see our gifts, skills and resources produce great success in the Church. It makes us feel good about ourselves as a Church and as servants of Christ when things go well.

Some of the work we do in the Church does not always show such a great return. Sometimes, we are the servant who got the two talents and made only two more. We expect more of a return for our hard work and effort. But as the Gospel writer points out, there are things worse than failure...like not trying at all...or being faithless and without hope.

While we tend to view today's parable as a rather harsh judgmental one, you may notice that the master had high praise for the first two servants. Enter into the joy of your master he tells them. He delights over his faithful servants.

Perhaps it is a good thing that God would have expectations for us, chances are we would do little – that's human nature. Because we know God expects us to strive to serve Christ – using our gifts and resources to do so - we are motivated.

The tricky part is to do what we do as the Church, not out of guilt, but out of thanksgiving for Christ. Thankful that we share Christ's life as a gift, we endeavour to serve him as a joyful response. In the end, we find that what we do in the name of Christ often brings meaning and purpose into our life. It also brings joy to the heart of God, which, in itself, is cause enough to do Christ's work in the world as good and faithful servants. May we ever fill God's heart with joy over us (and what we do) in Christ's name. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 441 *"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"*

Prayers of the Faithful: God of compassion, in fearful times, help us to remember that your steadfast love lasts forever and that we will always be held in your mercy. Chase away all doubt and fear, and inspire us to live in the hope that is ours in Christ, the Risen One. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Michael and for his holy work as a chaplain. May all who serve in the military, in many and various ways, be upheld and guided by you in their life of service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our world and in our land. Bless the work of all who strive to bring peace where there is conflict and lead us on the paths of reconciliation and healing with all we have harmed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the life of your beloved one, Arnold Hoffman, who has journeyed with Christ our Lord to our Heavenly Home. Comfort his family and all who mourn. Heal the brokenhearted. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Angela Lubitz, Dorian Verch, and all who see your healing touch and the gift of your peace. Hold them in your mercy, and journey with

them in their illness, bringing them healing and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are anxious in these troubled times. Help us be gentle and understanding to all who are struggling. Make us slow to judge others, and quick to choose the ways of compassion and grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill with Covid-19 and for all who care for them, and all who are working on vaccines. Bless this Holy Work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious God. **Amen.**

Music as the Altar is prepared.

The Great Thanksgiving including Sanctus, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Communion is received while you remain in your pews.

Music during communion.

Prayer after communion: (All) Almighty God, you come to us as the true bread from heaven in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we, who have received this Sacrament, may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing: May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song: ELW 785 *"When Peace Like a River"*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Angela Lubitz, Dorian Verch.

A NOTE REGARDING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

We welcome Chaplain Michael Hackbusch (CFB Petawawa) as our Guest Presider and Homilist this morning. We hope you had a chance to read his letter of introduction that was circulated last Sunday. We thank him for his holy work and for being with us today as we worship together.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION BREAD

If you wish to receive a gluten-free host (bread) as we commune today, please let Pastor Stephen know prior to this morning's celebration or ask one of our guides to share that information with him.

A DONATION has been made to CLWR by Ruth Thom in loving memory of her son Rick, who went to be with the Lord on November 14, 1983, and in thankfulness to the people who make copies of the services and deliver them. *“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart.” Psalm 34:18*

EMERGENCY CLOSING - With Covid-19 creating so much uncertainty we feel it is necessary to have a plan in place on how we will notify our members if we need to close the church on short notice. Should this be required there will be lots of media

attention that should have the members questioning our closing. We will do the following:

- Have the voicemail message at the church office updated indicating our closing date and restrictions.
- A message will be posted on our Facebook account and our church website.
- We will send an email to all members who have an email account on file.
- We will identify people that have been attending our worship services by using the registration sheets completed each week and will call these people.

Susan Dupuis

CONFIRMATION CLASS

There will not be a confirmation gathering today. The next gathering will be Sunday, November 29th.

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Please remember that there will be a mid-week Eucharist (Holy Communion) this Wednesday, November 18th in our Place of Worship. Please share this information with others who might wish to attend this shorter, simpler mid-week gathering.

GUIDING LIGHT DEADLINE

This Friday, November 20th is the deadline for the December issue of the Guiding Light. Please have all submissions into Jean at the office by this date. Thank you.

LOST KEYS

A set of keys has been found at our Insdale Cemetery (corner of TV Tower Road and Bruham Avenue). If anyone has lost a set of keys there, please contact the church office or Diane Rull.

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER

It is that time of year that your Social Ministry Committee is launching the Jam Jar Fundraiser. This year we have chosen **Gifts from the Heart** Program from CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). This is an exceptional program that assists families which in turn leads to self-sufficiency. It also helps their local economy.

Depending on the monies raised will determine how we will help. For example, last year \$75.00 would purchase a pair of goats for a family. These goats would provide milk to help feed their families. The goats would also breed in time to promote long term growth. A pair of oxen and plough was \$500.00. With a pair of oxen more soil can be tilled more quickly allowing time for other activities such as attending school. Some gifts are matched 3x (the oxen and plough) or 4x (Emergency food) thanks to Canadian Foodgrains and the Canadian Government. Our money has the potential to go far.

You may pick up a jar at the registration table to fill with change or other. Cheques are always welcome. If you wish to have a tax receipt, we will need your name and address or envelope number if there is cash only in the jar. This campaign will run until the first week of Advent; November 29, 2020. Thank you for your generous support.

Your Social Ministry Committee.

RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF CAMP LUTHERLYN

Camp Lutherlyn is hosting a raffle with 13 various prizes to be given away. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00, and can be purchased from the church office, on line or from various members of the board. For more information, please check out their website (www.lutherlyncamp.ca) or their Facebook page. Draw date is December 12, 2020.

Today's Scheduled Worship Leaders

Counters: Gerry Vandersleen, Wayne & Linda Reiche

Greeter:

Guides: Fred & Cindy Thrasher

Projector Operator: Ellen Vandersleen

Sexton: David Lehman

Worship Assistant: Susan Dupuis

This Week at Zion – November 16 - 22

Tuesday	7 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	10:30 a.m.	Mid-Week Holy Communion
		BULLETIN DEADLINE
Fri		GUIDING LIGHT DEADLINE
Sun	10 a.m.	Holy Communion