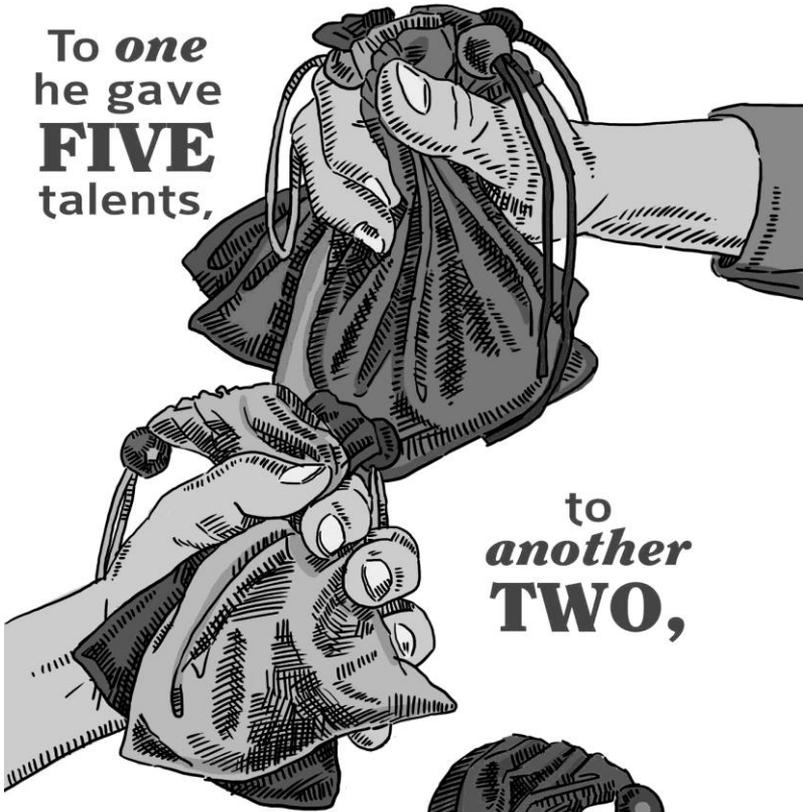


To *one*  
he gave  
**FIVE**  
talents,



to  
*another*  
**TWO,**

to *another*  
**ONE,**  
to each  
according to  
his ability.

Matthew 25: 15



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2808 SOUTH AVENUE WEST

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 15, 2020



(In an effort to keep everyone safe we ask that you please take  
this bulletin with you or dispose of it as you leave.)

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missoula, MT

Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2020

## As We Gather

We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master's work on our behalf. Jesus' saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.

## Prelude

### WORDS OF WELCOME

## Opening Hymn LSB 338

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



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.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

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

**C** You have been our good and faithful Master.

- P** You have poured out blessings upon us.  
**C** **You have given us all we need to support this body and life.**

- P** We meditate on all that You have done.  
**C** **We ponder the work of Your hands.**

- P** On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.  
**C** **In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** 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.

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** **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.**

- P** 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  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.**

## WORD

### Introit

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
**C** **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

- P** Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
**C** **for no one living is righteous before you.**

- P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;  
**C** **I ponder the work of your hands.**

- P** I stretch out my hands to you;  
**C** **my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

- P** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!  
**C** **Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

- P** For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!  
**C** **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.**

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
**C** **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

### **Kyrie**

- C** **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

### **Salutation**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

### **Zephaniah 1:7-16**

Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.  
And 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.  
On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.  
"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.  
Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.  
At 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.'  
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."  
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.  
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,  
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

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

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And 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.' His 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.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His 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.' He 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But 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? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For 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. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**G** **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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn LSB 783

Take My Life and Let It Be



1 Take my life and let it 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.

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.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
 At Thy feet its treasure store;  
 Take myself, and I will be  
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** 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.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

**P** 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.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

**P** Lord, by the resurrection of Your Son, death has been destroyed. Yet each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

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

**C** Amen.

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us children of men and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive Him who comes to us in His Body and Blood.  
**C** **Amen.**

### **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Proclamation of Christ**

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **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;  
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 Distribution

### Hymn LSB 809

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

# Hymn LSB 618

# I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

### Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have graced us with Your presence in this Sacrament, and we pray that You would keep us in the one true faith until life everlasting when we enter into the joy of our Master; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## Benediction

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

**G** Amen.

# Closing Hymn LSB 691

# Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



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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## Announcements

### Dismissal

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- G** Thanks be to God.

### +++ HOLY COMMUNION +++

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 meet with the pastor. ***"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup."*** (1 Cor. 11:27-28) For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34

#### Acknowledgments