

*For to all those
who have, more
will be given,
and they will
have an
abundance.*

Matthew 25:29, NRSV



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**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – Nov. 15, 2020**

120 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8am-12pm, 1-5pm

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Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or on demand at [www.stpaulupper.org](http://www.stpaulupper.org)

*\*\*\*Please note that there will be no congregational singing. The congregation WILL read verbally what is in bold type. Please follow all directions of the ushers and keep your masks on at all times while in the building. Please take everything with you from your pew and dispose of it at home.*

## **+ GATHERING +**

PRELUDE

*"I Ask Not Worldly Wealth" Bach*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, and open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"* (cantors)

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heav'nly throng; and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the new celestial song, the new celestial song.
- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord, and thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.

3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.

4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has made us free to stand among the saints and sing the glory that we see, the glory that we see.

#### 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 & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung by cantors)

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL MUSIC by Tim Krock

### + WORD +

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 90:1-8, 12

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

**<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

<sup>5</sup>You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

**<sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

**<sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to count our days

**that we may gain a wise heart.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (cantors)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

...This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*When Peace like a River*" (cantors)

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

*Refrain*

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

## THE 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 OF INTERCESSION

*Following each petition: ...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

## SHARING OF THE PEACE WITH NO CONTACT

# + THANKSGIVING +

## OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

## OFFERING MUSIC

*"We Gather Together" Held*

## OFFERING PRAYER

## CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (cantors)

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

# + SENDING +

## SENDING/BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (cantors)

1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

### *Refrain*

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*"Thanksgiving Joy!" Davis*

## **Today –**

11:15am – Catechism class

## **Tuesday, November 17 –**

9am – Staff meeting (Beth devotions)

## **Wednesday, November 18 –**

10:30am – piano tuning

6pm – Bell Group 1 practice

6:45pm – Bell Group 2 practice

7:30pm – Solo Bell practice

## **Thursday, November 19 –**

6pm – Books & Barry

## **Sunday, November 22 –**

9am – Adult Sunday School in The Gathering Place

10am – Worship



PRAYER CONCERNS: Shannyn Swinehart, Paul Baum, Joyce Koehler, Jim Pfeifer, Mary Orwick, Tim & Karen Koehler, John Foster, Pastor John Kerr, all first responders and frontline workers, and Wyandot Cares

WELCOME TO OUR "THANKOFFERING SERVICE"! Like other things, this will look different from the norm. We ask that you put your "Thankoffering" in the offering box and label it as such. One half will go to the National WELCA and the other half will go to the Christian Food Center. There is also a basket for your donations to Open Door Resource Center. If you forgot today, we will accept your Thankofferings and donations next week as well.

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is meeting each Sunday in The Gathering Place at 9am. Everyone is invited to join them!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is Thursday.

BOOKS & BARRY continues this Thursday at 6pm in The Family Space. The book being studied is Rob Bell's *Love Wins*. All are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE AGE KIDS: PB&J will not take place this week because Upper High School is doing remote learning. This will resume when school goes back to in-person learning.

THE MISSION OUTREACH line on your offering envelope for November will go to fees associated with our chartering of the Cub Scout group.

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting toiletries during November. Please put your donations on the table in the vestibule.

# A Significant Trust

On one level we can read the parable of the talents and see a simple lesson: A property owner entrusts property to his workers and goes away. The workers respond in different ways to this trust, and he responds to them in different ways upon his return. The third is paralyzed by fear. We ought not fear putting the gifts God has given us to work for good in our world.

There is another depth to this story found in the property entrusted to the workers: One is given five talents, the second two talents, and the third only one talent. We are told this is according to their ability. How much was a talent? In our culture, where we have coins and bills for our currency, this last worker seems to be entrusted with pocket change. A talent, however, was not a denomination of currency in the way we might understand. A talent was more than fifteen years' wages for a laborer. Fifteen years! For illustration purposes, let us assume a laborer today makes \$10 an hour. If a person works forty hours per week with two weeks of vacation, a year's wages would be \$20,000. Fifteen years of wages would be \$300,000. This would be one talent. Two talents would be \$600,000; five would be \$1,500,000.

Why all this math? What we see in the value of the talents are significant amounts of property entrusted to the workers—even the one with the least ability. What is beautiful in this story is the trust the property owner has in his workers. His disappointment with the third shows the trust to be sincere. What if this one had trusted himself as much as the property owner did?

Psalm 139 tells us we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Perhaps this parable is an invitation for us to believe in ourselves as much as God believes in us, and thus experience the joy our loving Creator already has for us.