



November 15, 2020 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

As We Gather: We read today about three servants. All three received a good and gracious gift from their master. 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.

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God"

- 1. We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**
- 2. We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; Through trial and tempest our guide You have been. When perils o'er take, You will not forsake us, And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**
- 3. With voices united Our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us, To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.**

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Opening Sentences

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

People: You have been our good and faithful Master.

Pastor: You have poured out blessings upon us.

People: You have given us all we need to support this body and life.

Pastor: We meditate on all that You have done.

People: We ponder the work of Your hands.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: 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.

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

All: Heavenly, Father, we confess that we have not always 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.

Pastor: God hears our confession and has promised to remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for us and for His sake forgives us all our 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.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.

Kyrie

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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:

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord and fill us with Your peace.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You are our good and faithful Master. Thank You for the abundance of blessings You have poured into our lives. Strengthen us by Your mighty power, that we might serve You well and faithfully; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

First Reading – Zephaniah 1:7-16 (*Zephaniah warns the unrepentant people of Judah that God's day of judgment is coming soon.*)

⁷ Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. ⁸ "On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the official and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. ⁹ On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. ¹⁰ "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹ Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' ¹³ Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine." ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near — near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. ¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath — a day of distress

and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—¹⁶ a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,^[a] you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ 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. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children^[b] of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:14-30 (*Jesus tells a parable reminding us that our relationship with God and our world is one of stewardship.*)

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ 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.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² 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.’ ²³ 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.’ ²⁴ 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, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: LSB 782 "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"

1. **Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days. For Your mercies never ending, for Your love we offer praise.**

(Refrain) **Lord we pray that we, Your people, Who Your gifts unnumbered claim Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.**

2. **By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small; As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all. (Refrain)**

3. **In His earthly life our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends; May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends. (Refrain)**

Sermon: Matthew 25:14-30 "Entrusted Servants"

Nicene Creed:

All: 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.

Prayers

Hymn: LSB 618 "I Come, O Savior. To Thy Table"

1. **I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul; Thou Bread of Life , alone art able To satisfy and make me whole: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good.**

2. **Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see, Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good.**

3. **Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good.**

The Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all place give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for He is our good and faithful Master who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: “Holy, Holy, Holy” *(Words and music in hymnal LSB page 161)*

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: 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.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask 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.

People: Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei: “Lamb of God” *(Words and music in the hymnal LSB page 163)*

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

Thank the Lord (Words and music in hymnal LSB page 164)

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgivings.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

All: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. And we pray that You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Hymn: LSB 783 "Take My Life And Let It Be"

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated Lord to Thee; Take my moments and my day, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing, Always only for my King; Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
4. 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of November 15, 2020

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

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pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

PRAY FOR: Doug & Jane Goodman Family
St. John's, Monett - Rev. Andrew Kennell

Family of Russ Moreland – (Peace and comfort on his passing)

Kay Johnson – (Peace and comfort on the passing of her husband, Milton)

Teachers and Staff at Robinson Elementary – (Health & healing and Peace & comfort from Corona virus)

Maurice DeVrient – (Health and healing)

Bill Munden – (Health and healing from congestive heart failure)

Bob Sanford – (Health and healing from kidney stones)

Jim Gordon – (Health and healing from a broken wrist)

Kerry Powell – (Brother of Bernie Thomas – health and healing from MRSA)

Cody Priest – (Nephew of Dennis Doss – health and healing from a broken leg)

Don Blalack – (Brother-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)

Pastor Cliff Loman – (Health and healing from blood clots)

Michael Lampe – (Pastor's son – health and healing)

Vincent Lindstrom – (Joan Wolf's Dad – health and healing)

Mary and L.D. Cantrell – (Sister and brother-in-law of Edith Chambers – health and healing)

Tonya Janes – (Friend of Jennifer Lampe – health and healing from cancer)
 Bob Painter – (Friend of David Lampe - Health and healing from surgery)
 Brenda Winkle - (Friend of Heidi Costello - health and healing)
 Samantha Kennedy - (Friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
 Corey Gregory - (Friend of Leah Henbest—health and healing)
 Rick Knutson – (Friend of Grace - health and healing)
 Milton Johnson – (Friend of David Lampe – health and healing)
 Kamryn Rockett – (Granddaughter of Jeeper Meyer - health and healing after a car accident)
 Courtney Lynne Thurmon – (Daughter of Cindy Springer – peace and healing from cancer)
 Helen Springer - (health and healing)



THIS WEEK

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|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday | November 15th | Service with Communion – 10:00 am |
| Wednesday | November 18th | Pastor in office Bible Study – 7:00 pm |
| Thursday | November 19th | Pastor in office |
| Sunday | November 22nd | Service ONLY – 10:00 am Voters' Meeting |



Birthdays: Debbie Lynn-15; Jennifer Lampe-19; Ruth Stoddard-21; Trevor Juracek-23;

Anniversaries: Charlie & Edee Chambers-21;



Regrets, Reality, Restoration - Wednesday Night Bible-Study:

Who among us wouldn't like to *redo* or *undo* something from our past? Is there a way out beyond our backstory? In *Regrets, Reality, Restoration*, you will hear heartfelt stories from people who have experienced regret in deep and profound ways. See how, even in these individuals' most tormented moments, it was God's love in Christ Jesus that brought hope to despair and light to crack the darkness.

Plus One will be collecting non-perishable food for the Harvest Church community food pantry for the month of November. Please consider contributing and supporting this project. Check the church website for more information.

Grace Delegate for District Convention: Grace can send a Delegate and Alternate to the Missouri District convention in Columbia, MO, on June 13-15, 2021. If you have an interest, see Pastor or an Elder before November 22nd.

Grace Nominations for District positions: Grace can nominate a layperson for Board of Directors, Council on Mission and Ministry, and Committee on Nominations. If you have an interest, see Pastor or an Elder before November 22nd.

Men's long sleeve button-up dress shirts are being collected by Sue Doss for the Dress A Girl program. This is a campaign under Hope 4 Women International – a non-denominational independent Christian organization that has been making dresses since 2006. The chapter working here locally is Dress A Girl Southwest Missouri. You can learn more at the Dress A Girl Southwest Missouri Facebook page. If you have any shirts, please get them to Sue. They do not have to be new but they do need to be in good condition and clean.





November

GREETERS

- 15– Bill & Joanne Michel
- 22– Dale & Diane Smith
- 29– Bernie & Shari Smith

USHERS

- 15–Dennis Doss
 - 22–Don Wolf
 - 29–Charlie Chambers
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COVID-19 Reminder:

Especially during the Pandemic & Flu season - we encourage everyone to wear a mask during service.

