

Sunday November 19, 2023  
25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## What is Your Talent Worth?



**Thought:** The problem with the one-talent man was not based on how little he had – he had plenty – but in how little he trusted his master. A talent is worth about 6,000 Denarii. God’s grace is plentiful for us and for our investment in others. Grace is not in short supply; it grows when we give it away.

**Prelude** – Lillian Pinkston

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prayer Concerns

### Sharing of the Peace

**P:** May God’s abundant love and peace be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### Call to Worship

**L:** Jesus said, “Much is required from the person to whom much is given.” (Luke 12:48b)

**C:** **We are those who have been given much love, much hope, and much peace in Christ Jesus.**

**L:** What have you done with what you have been given? Where in the world have you invested the legacy from the Lord?

**C:** **As we praise and worship God the giver, we will examine ourselves.**

**Gathering Hymn – “Jesus, Still Lead On”** ELW #624

[https://youtu.be/pXf7Vquq\\_U](https://youtu.be/pXf7Vquq_U)  
by Laurel Sanders

**Invocation**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Just as parents have compassion on their children, so the Lord has compassion on all who fear him.

**C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: What have you done with what the Lord has entrusted to you?

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most gracious God,

**C: We are not worthy of all the kindness and all the love which you have shown unto your children. We have responded with disobedience and indifference, neglecting to use your gifts in your service. We truly deserve your wrath and punishment. For the sake of Jesus Christ we turn to you for forgiveness.**

P: Our heavenly Father does not forsake his dear children. Jesus Christ was given to die for us, so that we might escape God’s wrath, and enter into the joy of our Master. For his sake your sins are forgiven, and the Holy Spirit enables you to be named the children of God.

**C: Let us be ready for his return! Amen.**

**Hymn of Hope – “Praise and Thanksgiving”** ELW #689

<https://youtu.be/Ef1as5GTl5k>  
by Chet Valley Churches

## Prayer of the Day

L: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.

**C: 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 Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## The Word

### Old Testament reading – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

*For the day of the Lord is at hand.*

<sup>7</sup>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.<sup>12</sup>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.”<sup>13</sup>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.<sup>14</sup>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.<sup>5</sup>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,<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.<sup>17</sup>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.<sup>18</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11)

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have <sup>l</sup> been our refuge from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the <sup>l</sup> dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”

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

**<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:**

**<sup>6</sup>in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

**<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.**

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

**[<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

**<sup>10</sup>The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength <sup>l</sup> even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

**<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power <sup>l</sup> of your wrath? Who rightly fears your <sup>l</sup> indignation?**

**<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.]**

### **Epistle reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### Holy Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

<https://youtu.be/4kRtyxHtIW0?si=Ifv5EufXRkyowm-d>

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you O Lord.

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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.’ <sup>21</sup>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.’ <sup>22</sup>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.’ <sup>23</sup>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.’ <sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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.

## Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/te41JQF8BZs?si=MjxWS5mZDmyzCVDa>

**Message** – “Each According to Their Ability”

<https://youtu.be/Pl1X7ZeYVrl?si=otxbfRsXUhtBU0H>

**Hymn of the Day** – “Day by Day”

ELW #790

<https://youtu.be/xQYJf87GwQY>

by Praus Sparrow

## 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

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders (*leaders may be named*). Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*) we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Offering**

**Offering Hymn – “O Holy Spirit, Enter In”**

**ELW #786**

## Offering Prayer

L: You have invested in us so richly, O God.

**C: Talents are ours...and grace...and love.**

L: Accept these gifts we offer – returns on your investment...

**C: ...dividends of your grace.**

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

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 your God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Preface

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Consecration



## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **Invitation**

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready

## **Distribution**

**Communion music** – Lillian Pinkston

**Post Communion Blessing** – Pastor

## **Post Communion Prayer**

L: Make what you have given us this day to grow in our hearts,

**C: grow in our minds,**

L: grow in our actions. You are the Lord forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

## **Benediction from Numbers 6**

[https://youtu.be/\\_su2GuaPO4o](https://youtu.be/_su2GuaPO4o)

by James Biery

**Dismissal**

**L:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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

**Postlude – Lillian Pinkston**

