

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 28

Enter into the Joy of Your Master

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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" *LSB 901 vs. 1, 2, 5*

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
People: **You have been our good and faithful Master.**

Leader: You have poured out blessings upon us.
People: **You have given us all we need to support this body and life.**

Leader: We meditate on all that You have done.
People: **We ponder the work of Your hands.**

Leader: On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.
People: **In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: 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.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: Heavenly Father,
People: **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.**

Leader: 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

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.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 1:7–16* (The Day of the Lord is near.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11* (Let us live as children of the light.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 25:29a*

Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.
Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14–30* (The parable of the talents)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord of All Hopefulness” *LSB 738 vs. 1, 2, 3*

SERMON “How to Serve Our Loving Lord” **Pastor James Schroeder**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

OFFERING & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Leader: 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.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

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

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Psalm 136

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

PROPER PREFACE

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: 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 beg 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Leader: 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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

Leader: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

Leader: 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 *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“On Eagles’ Wings” *LSB 727*
“O Living Bread from Heaven” *LSB 642*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” *LSB 643*

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.