

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.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray - Gehring, Hildebrand

BELLS

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Stand

HYMN

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray - LSB 663:1-4



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.

Tune and text: Public domain

SENTENCES OF PREPARATION

- Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
- Pastor: There is a day coming when God will settle accounts with us.
People: Merciful God, teach us how to live in readiness.
- Pastor: To each of us God provides gifts according to our ability.
People: Merciful God, show us how to use your gifts wisely.
- Pastor: God expects us to use our gifts to yield an increase for the kingdom.
People: Merciful God, give us hearts for working faithfully.
- Pastor: Those who are trustworthy will enter into the joy of our God. Those who are wicked and lazy will be cast into the outer darkness.
People: Merciful God, let the Spirit of Christ live in us that we might be found trustworthy like Jesus our Savior.
- Pastor: We confess to God and before one another:
**People: Kingdom-building God,
You want us to watch and to be prepared for the kingdom that is coming.
Yet our attention wanders from the unseen that seems so far off
To more immediate demands that surround us.
We are preoccupied and consumed by all the daily “stuff” of life:
family obligations, work responsibilities, meetings we attend,
classes we take, causes we support, often distract us from our watching.
In trying to meet the expectations of all the people around us,
We forget that you, our holy God, have expectations of your own.
We are in this world for a purpose,
And we have allowed our purpose to be diluted by the cares of the world.
Forgive us, dear God, and restore us to active watching, and faithful
preparation.**
- Pastor: God has delayed the coming of the kingdom out of compassion for those who have been distracted or who have grown lazy in their service. Once again, God forgives us, and calls us back to our purpose. It is not yet too late. We still have time to live up to God’s expectations. Thanks be to God for his mercy. In the name and stead of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ, I therefore announce to the forgiveness of all your sins; in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Yes, Amen. Thanks be to our merciful God.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray - LSB 663:5

But while watching, also pray
To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day,
Strength and faith increasing,
So that still
Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him
And forever love Him.

Text: Public domain

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, when the Day of Judgment comes, our only hope will be your grace. Keep us alert and watchful for Jesus' return, and for his sake invite us to his marriage feast, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷ Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

⁸ 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.

⁹ On that day I will punish

everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's[a] house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰ "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.

¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders[b] are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹² 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.'

¹³ 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."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

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

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While 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. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14–30

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴He 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, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For 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.**

SERMON

Good Stewards

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending - Tune: Hymn to Joy

God, whose giving knows no ending, From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by you, we turn to you, Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at your throne.

CREED

Nicene Creed

**C 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Lord Jesus we give thanks for all veterans who have served our nation. We pray especially today for those who continue to serve at home and through out the world. Keep them safe and bring them home to their families. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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, [especially . . .]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Give ear to our pleas for mercy.

Pastor: 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

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is good and right, O Lord, to offer You thanks and praise for having granted to us all things in Christ Jesus, our Savior, whose Baptism for us fulfilled all righteousness and whose perfect obedience before the lies of the tempter has given us strength, that we may endure in His strength and answer Satan's taunts with the truth of Your Word, our strength and shield. 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

LSB 161

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who at the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

PAX DOMINI

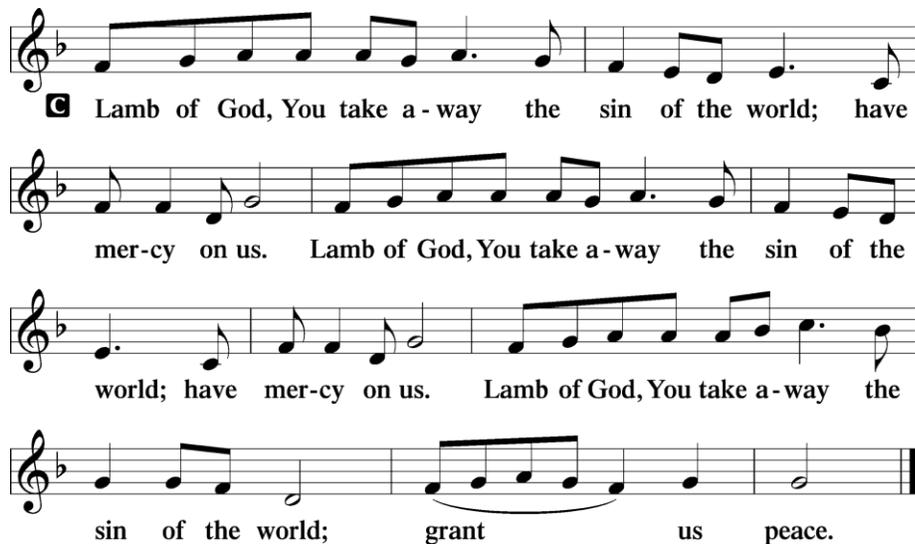
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

LSB 163



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

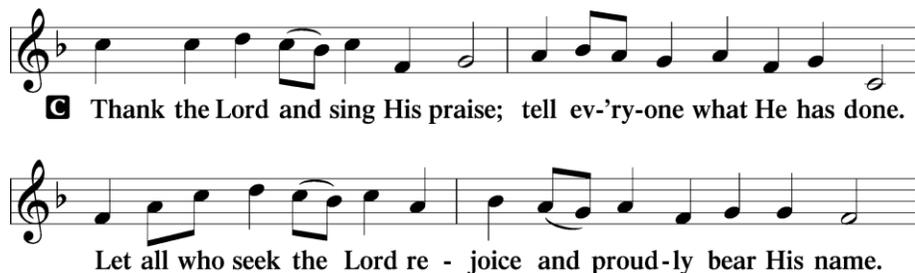
Stand

COMMON DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thank the Lord"

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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

Pastor: May your love for God inspire you to faithful service to God. May you prove trustworthy of all God's gifts to you, as you use them to yield increase for God's kingdom. May you hear God's, "Good job! You're a good and faithful servant," and be invited into the joy of our heavenly Father. The blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit go with you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go - Tune: St. Crispin

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue.
You, only you, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.

The task your wisdom has assigned, Oh let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works your presence find And prove your good and perfect will.

Give me to bear your easy yoke And ev'ry moment watch and pray.
And still to things eternal look And hasten to your glorious day.

POSTSERVICE MUSIC

Forth in Your Name - Theodore Beck

REMINDER: Please place your tithes and offerings in the trays and/or box as you exit the sanctuary or sign up for on-line giving at www.zionanaheim.org