

# 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020 - 10:00 AM

## Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223  
www.livingspringscolumbia.org



*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*



*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Recognition of Veterans)

### GENEROSITY MISSION MOMENT

*We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*Text: William W. How*

*We stand as able*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)*

**Pastor:** Holy One,

**People:** **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, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

**GATHERING SONG**

"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

*O Happy Day When We Shall Stand; Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels; Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman  
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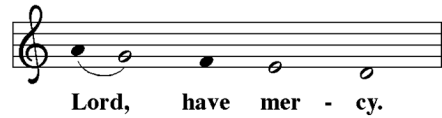
**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

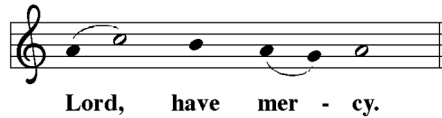
**People:** **And also with you.**

**KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



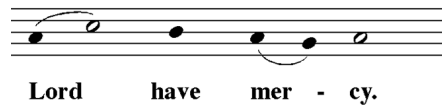
**Pastor:** For the peace from above  
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**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.



**Pastor:** For this community of faith,  
and all who offer their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.



**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



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

*We are seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Helen Doerpinghaus

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)*

*With our eyes on Jesus*

***WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!***

## **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

*"Gather Them In"*

*Christopher Girardeau*

*By Peter La Grand*

## **FIRST READING**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

Lector: A reading from Zephaniah.

***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. 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." 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. 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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 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. 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. (Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18)***

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM 90:1-12

Lector: Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

Lector: You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**People: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**

Lector: you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**People: in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Lector: For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**People: Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

Lector: When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

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

Lector: Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

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

## SECOND READING

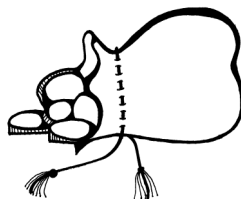
*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Lector: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



We stand for the reading of the Gospel

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' " (Matthew 25:14-30)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We are seated

## MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"This is My Song "

LS Disciples of Harmony

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,  
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;  
myself I give you; let your will be done.*

by Lloyd Stone, Georgia Harkness & Jean Sibelius

*We stand as able*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**People:** 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**

**Assist:** Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*+ A brief silence +*

**Assist:** Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Assist:** Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Assist:** Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Assist:** Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, grief, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. We pray especially for: *Wendy McKenzie; Anita Gabbard; Will/Angelica/Eliana/Gabriella Collins; Eric Fink; Peg Zieche; Sue Bradham; Karl Schmidt; Elizabeth Maddox; Henrietta Kaiser; Gwen Brantley; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Pam Deselem; Judy Jennings; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Jared Vaupel; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Assist:** Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Assist:** Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Pastor:** O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to pray for ... Hear us, O God.

**People:** Your mercy is great.

**Pastor:** Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**People:** Amen.

## **SHARING OF PEACE**

**Pastor:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

*Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering therefore his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

+ THE ELEMENTS ARE SYMBOLICALLY CARRIED OUT OF THE CHANCEL +

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*THIS WEEK: Our worship will continue with **distribution of Holy Communion on Sunday from 11:15 - 12:00 pm** in the Parking Lot. We will utilize sanitary-packaged individual communion elements, which have been consecrated during the worship service. There will be an "usher" in the parking lot to direct vehicles to the distribution altar, and the pastor will be there, wearing mask and gloves (he will change gloves after each vehicle). Everyone please remain in your vehicle throughout the process. Once it's your turn, drive up and put your vehicle in park. The pastor will come to your car window(s) to distribute Holy Communion. **AFTER** you have consumed the elements, the Pastor will offer a blessing – and then you can pull away. While in the parking lot, everyone should be in prayerful worship-mode, as you represent God's people gathered to continue the worship experience from the morning service. Think of this in the same way you would think about "coming up to the communion rail for distribution" in your vehicle during an ongoing worship service.*

## COMMUNION REFLECTION

"Timbrel and Dance"

JuBELLation  
by Kevin Chesney

*The elements are symbolically carried back to the altar.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

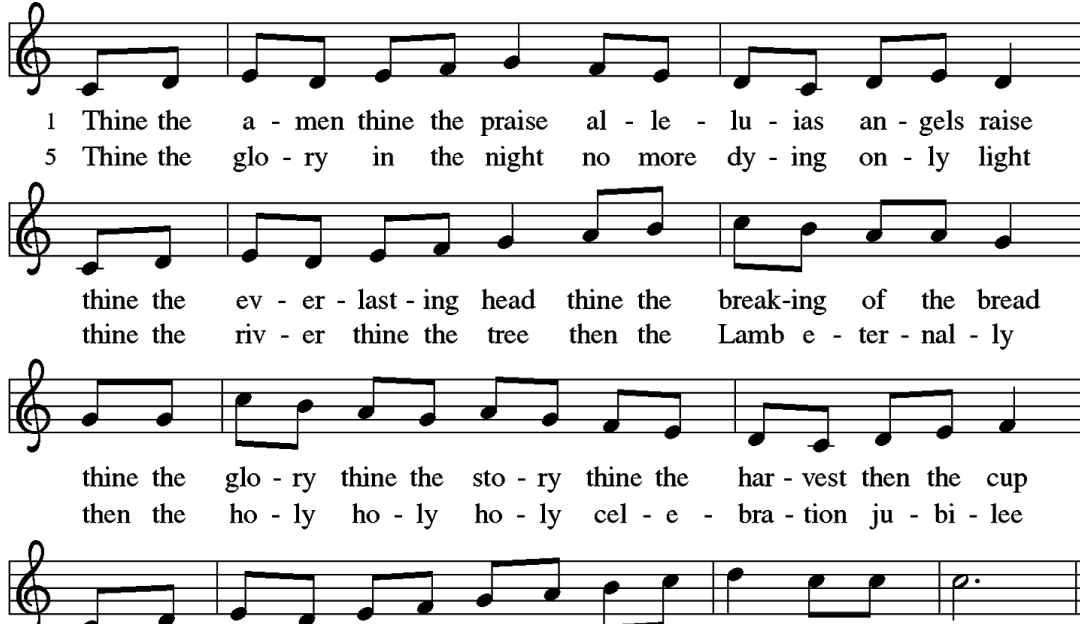
People: **Amen**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen**

## SENDING SONG

"Thine the Amen"



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light

thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly

thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee

thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

*Thine the Amen; Text: Herbert F. Brokering; Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk  
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## DISMISSAL

Assist: Beloved of God, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## NOVEMBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

**November 8:** In memory & honor of Eleanor Lummel's birthday by Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel

**November 15:** In honor of our anniversary by Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel





## **VETERANS & ACTIVE MILITARY MEMBERS OF LIVING SPRINGS**

Patricia M. Bartucca	Air Force	1967-1972 (Vietnam)
Rocky Berger	Air Force	1985-1992
Gary C. Bradham	Air Force	1973-1998 (Cold War, Gulf War)
Jeff Day	Army	1972-1993 (Desert Storm)
Kyle Dement	Air Force	present
Bill Franck	Ohio National Guard	1971-1977
Derrick Franck	Air Force	2002-Present (Global War on Terror)
Robert (Bob) Gabbard	Army	1966-1969 (Vietnam)
Ronnie D. Gerald	Marines	2011-present
Robert L. Gill	Army	1965-1967 (Vietnam)
James Grimmer	Marines	1948-1968 (Korea, Vietnam)
Todd Gunvalson	Coast Guard	1971-1995 (Vietnam, Gulf War I)
Melody Hair	Navy	1972-1992 (Viet Nam, Desert Storm)
Rhett Hair	Navy	1975-1995 (Vietnam, Desert Storm)
Joel Holmstrom	Army	1998 - present (Kosovo & Afghanistan)
Marshall Hurlbert	Army	1984-1994 (Cold War, Gulf War Era)
Barbara Imbert	Army	1988-1999 (Desert Storm)
Robert R. Jorgensen	Army/Army Nat'l Guard	1956-1988 (Vietnam)
Paul Laingen	Air Force	1962-1966 (Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam)
Melvin Lowery	Army	1953-1981 (Korea & Vietnam)
Jeff Lummel	Marines	1963-1968
Jerry Mancuso	Army	10 Years (Vietnam)
Chase Moody	Air Force	2016-present
Carl Nandrasy	Air Force	1956-1969 (Korean War & Vietnam)
Ronald Dean Ramsey	Army	1983-2007 (Afghanistan, Gulf War)
Daniel Shannon	Air Force	1999-present
Katrina Shannon	Air Force	2000-present
Mike Traufler	Marines	1983-2005 (Afghanistan)
Adam Woodruff	Navy	1983-2003 (Gulf War)

Today we are honoring those of our Living Springs family who have served, or are currently serving, in our armed forces. In the back of today's bulletins we proudly list those individuals. If we don't have your information, we would still like to have it for the future. Please call the office with your info or if you prefer, please go to [goo.gl/forms/deuPJgoDkk2Hmtpt1](http://goo.gl/forms/deuPJgoDkk2Hmtpt1)

**We thank you for your service!**

# God's Love Shared Through You ...



## One Life Deeper in 2020!

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!**

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!**

**SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!**

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

#### *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.

### November Book of the Month: Ecclesiastes & Jonah

# Forward in FAITH Forward in GENEROSITY



We have never experienced a year like the one we are currently living in. In-person worship and other gatherings initially canceled; learning to provide worship and faith formation on-line; caring for one another from a distance; carrying out ministries for the community in creative ways - just to name a few. At the same time, God has been very clearly active in our life together. Here are just a few of the ways that have been shared:

*This past Tuesday was the first time in several months that I was able to worship at the Living Springs sanctuary with other members of the congregation. The Pew Bears facing out the window reminded me of the lonely residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities - longing for visitors and to share the love of Jesus. How can I, as a member of the body of Christ, be like those bears and serve the world in these difficult times? It made me thankful for the Pew Bears that continue to be taken to people to do ministry.*  
Tom W.

*I give thanks to God for our wonderful youth leaders who have had an instrumental impact on my boys - and thank God for guiding them through their journey of faith and for leading my family to Living Springs. It has truly been a blessing, especially in this year.*  
Daniel S.

*I experienced the joy of God's love in the huge smile on that mom's face, as our youth moved in an apartment full of furniture for her. I saw God at work in a single mother who had experienced homelessness & many other life challenges - responding to God's love thru caring people and seeking God's will in her life. I give thanks that God works thru this congregation - and that she now has a steady job, apartment, and is teaching her children to trust in the Lord!*  
Karen K.

*You guys don't know this - but my son has every Scripture verse card from these football devotions taped up on his wall. When I go to talk with him, he reads them with me. I'm so glad you are here again this year. God works powerful things!*  
Terry, JV Asst. Coach

*Sitting in my car with my wife at the communion distribution tent, I was overwhelmed with a feeling of joy & God's grace. Tears filled my eyes, as Christ's body & blood were shared with us - the same feeling I had at my First Communion when I was young.*  
Todd G.

*June 1 was a day of excitement and joy for me as our LS Child Development Center re-opened, after being closed for 2½ months. There was joy in children's faces, hope in parents' voices, courage in our teachers - and I knew this amazing Spirit-filled ministry is still scattering the seeds of God's love - in spite of a pandemic that required a "new normal"!*  
Gail B.

*"Just go and be there" was the response from my pastor years ago when I asked him "what to say or do" when someone dies or is gravely ill. I had always been uncomfortable in such settings and was afraid I would say or do something wrong. Then, years later, when my wife suffered a debilitating stroke, when we thought God would call her soon, Pastor Eric visited frequently. Many times after reading scripture & praying he would just "be there" comforting us with his presence and love of God. Pastor "just being there" eased this burden more than I can describe.*

Harold T.

What a beautiful community we are part of! God is certainly active here and we look forward to how we can help keep this ministry vibrant in the coming year!

# Forward in FAITH Forward in GENEROSITY



## SEEK IN PRAYER GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR GIVING

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support in the work of God's kingdom?

The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can comfortably "afford" or "spare."

Instead we, as Christians, we seek to discover what God's will is for us in our giving. A Christian commitment, in any matter of faith, including our giving, can really only be made on our knees, seeking God's will in fervent prayer.

Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do and listening for the voice of God in the prayer conversation.

Giving to the work of God's kingdom through Christ's church is not a financial transaction. Instead, giving to the church is a spiritual exercise undertaken only after conversation with God.

