



“For to everyone who has, more will be given,
and he will have abundance.”

+ *Matthew 25:29a (NKJV)*

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

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 reflected the goodness and faithfulness of their master and enter into his joy. One refused to act like his master and was punished for his insolence.

Consider Jesus, our good and faithful Master, and all that He has done for us and our salvation. It is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is His work on our behalf—Jesus’ saving work of life, death, and resurrection—that brings us into the joy of the Father.

As we follow Him, we reflect the goodness and faithfulness that is the very nature of our God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org



The Parable of the Talents from Historiae celebriores Veteris Testamenti Iconibus representatae, artist unknown, 1712, public domain.

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

LSB 508, sts. 1–3, 7



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing;
7 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, But has - ten our sal - va - tion;



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
We of - ten trem - ble on our way In fear and trib - u -



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
la - tion. O hear and grant our fer - vent plea: Come, might - y



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judge, and set us free From death and ev - 'ry e - vil.

Text and tune: Public Domain

Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing)

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

² Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.

⁵ **I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | You have done;***
I ponder the work | of Your hands.

⁶ I stretch out my | hands to You,*
my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.

¹⁰ **Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!***
Let Your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



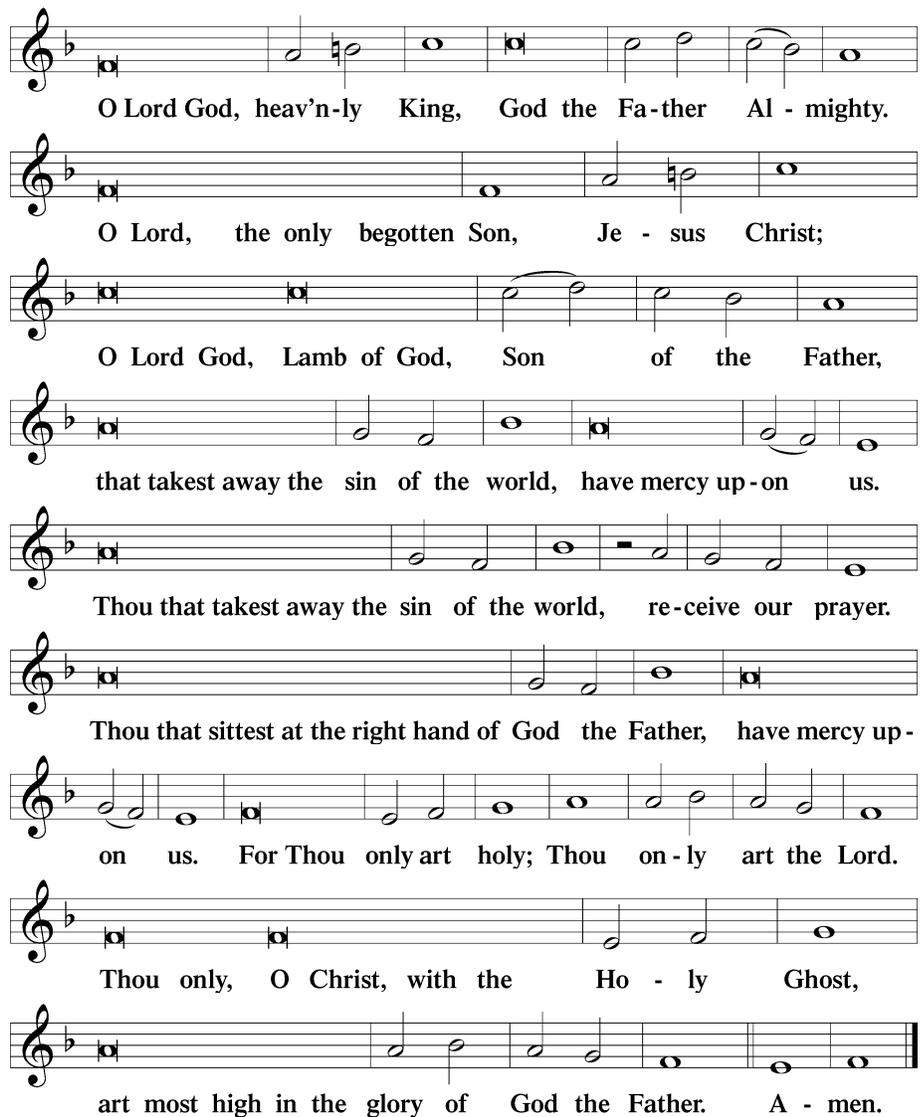
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

P The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter one.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests. ⁸And 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. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's 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. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At 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.' ¹³Their 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."

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵A 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, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

The pastor and congregation chant responsively.



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in You,*

in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

P The Epistle is from First Thessalonians, chapter five.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

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

Matthew 25:29a (NKJV)



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 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.

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.’ 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.’

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, ²⁵so 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 sowed 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.

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. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

LSB 508, sts. 1, 4-7



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,
 5 My Sav - ior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smit - ten;
 6 May Christ our in - ter - ces - sor be And through His blood and mer - it
 7 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, But has - ten our sal - va - tion;



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly
 With - in the Book of Life I know My name has now been
 Read from His book that we are free With all who life in -
 We of - ten trem - ble on our way In fear and trib - u -



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the
 writ - ten. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Sa - tan
 her - it. Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His
 la - tion. O hear and grant our fer - vent plea: Come, might - y



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
 judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.
 can - not threat - en me; There is no con - dem - na - tion!
 saints in that blest place Which He has pur - chased for us.
 judge, and set us free From death and ev - 'ry e - vil.

Text and tune: Public Domain

SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the Sermon the pastor may say:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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:

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be
upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil,
those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Stand

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Q A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and, if possible, please come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till
and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,
Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Heinz Tomato Ketchup famously declares “Good things come to those who wait.” While that may be true for ketchup (yes, I do LOVE ketchup), I can’t say that it is a universal truth. And I KNOW that Leo and every other kid on the planet will tell you that “waiting is THE WORST!”

And waiting for the results of the national election is feeding fear and creating uncertainty. No matter the result, some will be joyful while others will be disheartened; but waiting is a challenge. In the face of uncertainty, it’s good for us to recall God’s command and promise.

First, we are to honor those in positions of authority.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1-2).

We are subject first to the rule of law (the Constitution of the United States of America, the California State Constitution, etcetera) and second to those who hold offices according to mandate. We are to honor and respect our elected officials. We are free to disagree with them and work for change but we are not to hate or despise them (check the Fourth Commandment). Instead, we pray for them.

Second, we must remember that all earthly rule and authority is temporary.

“Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish” (Psalm 146:3-4).

The Lord is king—forever and ever—and His kingdom is not like the political rule of this or any other nation on earth. He says, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were part of this world, My servants would have been fighting” (John 18:36).

So no matter what—don’t put your trust in rulers . . . they are but mortal. Trust in the Lord!

You stand a redeemed child of the one true God and He has prepared good works in which you should walk, namely: **love your family; laugh and enjoy the good gifts of creation; read and study and love His Word; and pray, praise, and give thanks to Him always.**

Speaking of family and laughter, I really want to share with you a great picture of Sam! He’s my **little guy with a great big smile** and even bigger (and louder) laugh! I hope it brings you a smile, too!

Also, please join me on **Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)** for our **Study of the Psalms** on “Zoom.” We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, finishing by 1:00pm. This week we study Psalm 30.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#

And tune-in to Facebook **each Wednesday at 7:00pm** for a short **service of prayer and meditation** on the psalm. The service folder is on our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org) and the live-stream is on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro).

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

