

St. Paul Lutheran

Taylor, TX
LCMC

November 15, 2026

Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor



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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



There will be a congregational meeting today immediately following service to discuss and approve the 2027 Congregational Budget. Copies of the budget are available in the Narthex.

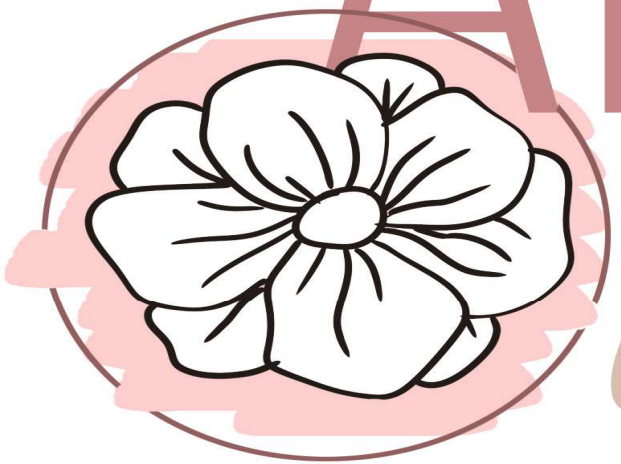


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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

2027 Altar Flower sign-up chart is available in the Narthex

ALTAR flowers



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary by John and Tracie Luna



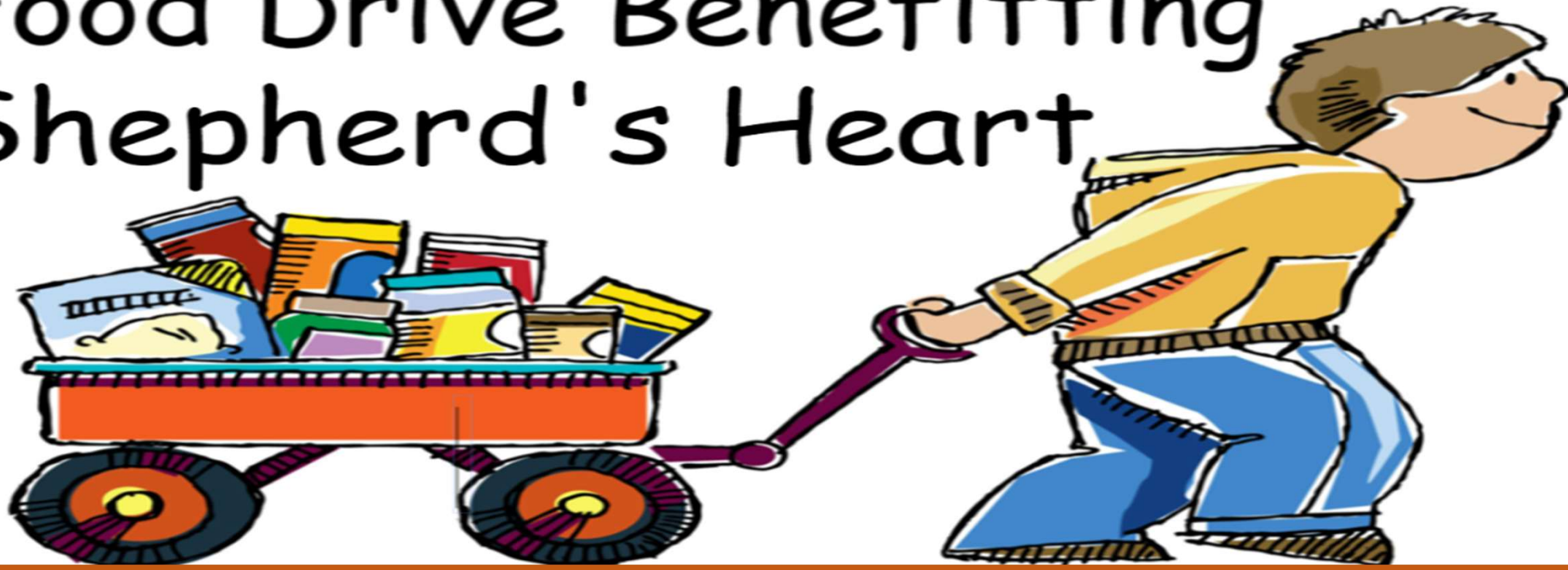
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Thrivent is committing $3 million to support organizations. When you donate through Thrivent's giving platform, they will boost your gift so your generosity goes further.

On Tues, Dec 1 visit thrivent.com/give to make a donation

Food Drive Benefitting Shepherd's Heart



Food drive hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church
today from 4 pm – 5 pm
at the St. Paul House Parking Lot



Shine, Jesus, in the dark places where evil wants to dwell.

"You are my lamp, Lord; the Lord illumines my darkness."

2 Samuel 22:29 (CSB)

PRAYER LEAGUE

prayerleague.org

INTRODUCTION

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.

Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
Amen.

Gathering Song

“On Jordan’s Stormy Bank I Stand”

Hymn # 437

[1] On Jordan's stormy bank I stand,
and cast a wishful eye

Hymn # 437

to Canaan's fair and happy
land,
where my possessions lie.

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

Hymn # 437

[2] All o'er those wide
extended plains
shines one eternal day;

Hymn # 437

there God the Son forever
reigns
and scatters night away.

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

Hymn # 437

[3] No chilling winds or
pois'nous breath
can reach that healthful
shore;

Hymn # 437

sickness and sorrow, pain
and death,
are felt and feared no more.

[Refrain]

Hymn # 437

[Refrain]

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

Hymn # 437

Final **When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blest?**

Hymn # 437

When shall I see my Savior's face
and in God's bosom rest?

[Refrain]

Hymn # 437

[Refrain]

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

Hymn # 437

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy

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

A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his

This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory
for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

7 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.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in
wine, those who say in their hearts, “The LORD will
not do good, nor will he do harm.” 13 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.

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

17 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. 18 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] 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
**2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are
like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and
withered.

7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
**8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance.**

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 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.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to
wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know
very well that the day of the Lord will come like a
thief in the night. [3] 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! [4] But you,
brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief;

5 for you are all children of light and children of the
day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So,
then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep
sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. 8 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.

9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. 11 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.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal Life.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 25:14-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 “For it is as if a
man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he
gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according to his ability. Then he went away.
At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made
five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who
had the two talents made two more talents.

18 But the one who had received the one talent
went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 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.'

21 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.’ 22 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.’

23 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.’ 24 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, 25 so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.’

[26] 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? [27] 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. [28] So take the talent from him,
and give it to the one with the ten talents.

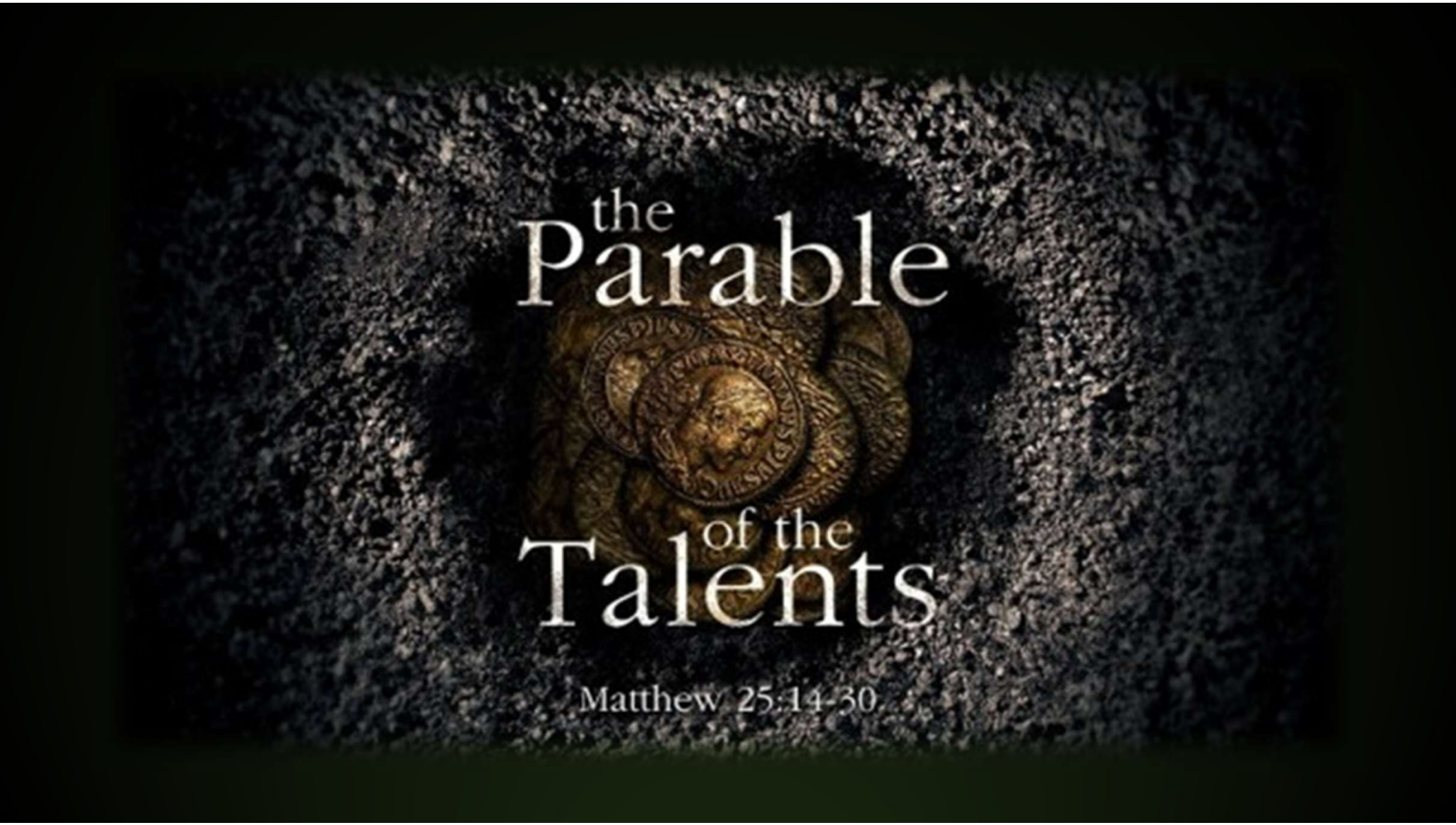
[29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and
they will have an abundance, but from those who
have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into
the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.


CHILDREN'S
SERMON

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley


the Parable
of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30

Hymn of the Day

“Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”

Hymn # 971

From ASC Supplement

[1] Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.

Hymn # 971

Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Hymn # 971

[2] Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the martketplace.

Hear the Word made flesh
among us,
full of glory, truth , and grace.

Hymn # 971

When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Hymn # 971

Final Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nuture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.

Hymn # 971

Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and Earth.

Hymn # 971

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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.

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing and we remember our friends and family members before you.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary William in Kenya, serving with the Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Hands for Pine City Lutheran Church in Pine City, Minnesota.

Today we also pray for Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Brenham, Texas. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you.
God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with You

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

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.

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

Lamb of God *Pg. 174*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.



Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Song

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Hymn # 674

[1] Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:

Hymn # 674

bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
[Refrain]

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

[2] Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,

Hymn # 674

teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

[Refrain]

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

Final **Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,**

Hymn # 674

gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!

[Refrain]

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

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25TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST