

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Nov 15, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Worship Times: First Sask Worship - 9:00 a.m.
St. Paul Worship -
First Sask St. Paul
Assistants: Isabelle Milne
Janitors: Foster & Merle Farthing

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness:

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

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: 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.

P: 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. Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

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

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

LBW p.258

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon/Reflection:

"Master, I knew that you were a harsh man..."? The master's severe reaction in Jesus' parable might lead us to agree with Slave Number Three on that character assessment.

On the other hand, this master is the guy who, instead of putting his money in the bank where it would be safest, decides to entrust it to the slaves of his household. Not a small amount of money either: one talent was about 16 years' wages at the time. Though he's put himself in a very vulnerable position, the master is assessing the slaves' faithful service more than the monetary returns. But Slave Number Three has such distrust and contempt for his master that he has refused to respond to his master's generosity, trust, and invitation to joy.

I confess to my inner Slave Number Three tendencies. I've given up opportunities to share the Gospel, to offer what God has entrusted to me or connect with others over fear that I might mess it up. I've not followed through with creative endeavours I knew God was calling me toward, paralyzed by the prospect that they might fail. But maybe not everything God calls us to is destined to be a sparkling success story. Much of the value in our service lies in just putting faith into action.

Though our fears lead us to imagine a harsh, punitive God, God has revealed who he really is through Jesus Christ. Our master became vulnerable, taking onto himself the suffering and death that we fear, and offering love and forgiveness in return. He lives in resurrected life and has sent us the Holy Spirit, so that we can be his partners in this world, sharing God's love for all of creation. And he will come again, and there is no question as to whether we've done enough or met his standard. Christ has promised us that all who trust in him will know the joy of eternal life with God. May we serve our master, unafraid. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

A: 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

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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 trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress (especially ...). Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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. Amen.

MEAL

Offering Prayer:

P: 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:

Words of Institution
Lord's Prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer after Communion:

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

Blessing: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us remember in our prayers: Andrew Nosterud, Edwin Loessin, Lisa Hamp, Gloria Hamp, Sonia Zacharias, Darren Wilkie, Carla Wilkie, Susan Wonko, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie

THIS WEEK:

Today: 7:00p - LuMinHoS concert on YouTube

Wednesday, November 18:

1:30p - Cotton Pickin' Quilters at St. Paul

No Service at First Sask next Sunday, November 22 but service will continue November 29 with guest Pastor Bruce Ehlert.

No services at St. Paul until further notice.

Fare Well, Pastor Melissa!

This is a sad Sunday for the members of the Langham and Radisson congregations, as we bid farewell to Rev. Melissa Brooks who has served us variously as vice-pastor and as rostered pastor over the last four years. It was been a rewarding journey for all of us, and we will miss Pastor M's cheerful leadership, wishing her peace and joy in her call to focus on her young family and her new community. We all hope we can get together again - perhaps some Sunday next summer -- when we can share a meal and a hug with Melissa and Matt and the girls! Peter K

For at-home worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:
<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>
- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

St. Paul: today, Sunday, November 15, is the last day for collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

LuMinHoS concert is being hosted on their website u-tube on Sunday evening, November 15 at 7:00p. www.luminhos.org - events. It is a celebration of their 40th anniversary, a variety of music and their annual fund raiser all wrapped into one virtual event. Please go to the website to get suggestions and details.

St. Paul - Canada Lutheran subscriptions. Let Miriam know if you would like to add or delete your name from the list. If you wish to add \$20.00 to your offering, it would help cover the cost our church pays for each subscription.

First Sask & St. Paul: Anyone wishing to let their name stand for church council for 2021, please contact: at First Sask - Roxanne, 306-384-9930 or Eric, 306-960-7114 and at St. Paul - Cathy Flath, 306-827-4611.

St. Paul - there will be no mitten tree up this year, but if you have some mittens, toques, etc. you would like to donate to the less fortunate, please bring them to the church by Sunday, December 13.

Donations to St. Paul can still be given:

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

St. Paul - if you are not receiving the bulletins by email and would like to add your name to the list, please give Doris your email address by sending it to the parish address found at the beginning of this bulletin.

Happy Birthday this week: Bri Hardcastle, Teresa Keet, Harry Lerch, Dale Roth, Paula Mason

Assistant November 29: Roxanne Elke

Janitors November 29: Dean Anderson/Roxanne Elke

Attendance last Sunday: no services

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be 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.

¹²At 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.”

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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.

¹⁶ 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.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

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. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once 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 seed; 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.’