

HYMN #751: "O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made" - see slides

SERMON: Time for a Lesson on Talents Matthew 25:14-30
1. God gives different talents to different people.
2. God looks at the same criterion for everyone—faithfulness.

THE NICENE CREED (page 180) - see slides

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (spoken responsively) - see slides

OFFERING PRESENTATION - HYMN #767 - verse 2 - see slides

THE SACRAMENT - see slides

HYMN #670: "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table" - see slides

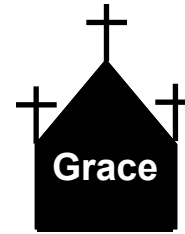
PRAYER & BLESSING - see slides

HYMN #930: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" - see slides

Worship Music Leader: Amibeth Olderman

Thank you to all who served in our worship service today!

Last Week's Attendance: Sunday 8:00 - XX; 10:45 - XX; Monday: XX Total: XXX



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**THE TIME IN BETWEEN:
A TIME FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE**

**November 19 & 20, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

November 19 & 20, 2023

In the name of our Lord Jesus, welcome to one and all! We pray that here at Grace you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word, and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask.

Listening Assist Aids are available. Please see an usher.

Our Communion Practice

In obedience to God's Word and in loving concern for the spiritual welfare of others, we practice closed communion, participating in this wonderful supper. By limiting communion at our altar to those of our faith and fellowship we are not trying to judge non-members' personal faith. We are acting in accord with the Lord's will concerning the administration of the Sacrament. Those of our faith and fellowship, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), but not of our congregation, should announce to the pastor personally prior to taking Communion with us for the first time.

Today's Theme: A Time for Faithful Service

As we wait for Christ to return, we are not to be sedentary. The reason Christ has not yet returned is that there is still work to be done. And Christ carries out his good work through us, his Church. So, until Christ comes again and says, "Stop!" believers will be busy with faithful service. Christ has given every believer gifts and talents. And when Christ entrusts us with those gifts and talents, he calls us to use them all for his glory. In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

The Service - Service Setting Two with Sacrament pg. 172

OPENING HYMN #739: "Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go" - see slides

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION - see slides

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie - see slides

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST - *Gloria in Excelsis (ALL sing)* - see slides

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken by Pastor - ALL speak the Amen*)

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READING: Romans 12:1-8

When we keep God's mercy in view, we understand and appreciate the gifts he gives us in Christ, and we use those gifts faithfully.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - see slides

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Through a parable Jesus calls his followers to faithful service in grateful response to the gifts that the master has given and in joyful anticipation of the master's impending return.

¹⁴Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²²The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' ²³"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²⁴"Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸' ²⁸"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**