

# THE **PARABLE** OF THE **TALENTS**

## **The Parable of the Talents**

July 23, 2017  
11 am

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
Salisbury, North Carolina



# Welcome to St. John's!

*Part of this morning's liturgy may also be found at the front section of this hymnal, where noted in your bulletin. Occasionally you will be invited to turn to a hymn in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The congregation's responses are in **bold**.*

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!** We hope that you will feel a warm sense of welcome today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. Please complete the Friendship Pad found on the pew so that we might get to know one another better. For more information, visit our website at [stjohns-salisbury.org](http://stjohns-salisbury.org).

**HOLY COMMUNION** is offered on the first and third Sundays at the 11 am service, on the second and fourth Sundays at the 8:30 am service, and on the first Sundays at the 9:27 am service. All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to the Table to receive God's gift of grace through his body and blood. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing. Following the ushers' instructions, proceed down the aisle to the front of the church.

**SMALL CHILDREN** are always welcome at worship, although a nursery for infants through age 5 is provided in the lower level of the Sanctuary building for your convenience. Please ask an usher to direct you to the nursery.

**AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**, please feel welcome and invited to greet your neighbors and enjoy this time together. As the prelude begins, let us be silent and prepare ourselves for worship. Be mindful that this is a worship service. Please turn off all electronic devices. The use of cameras, iPads and other picture-taking technologies should be limited to before or after the service. Thanks for being considerate of others regarding flashes and ringtones. May the Spirit of God fill this place and lead us into the wonder of his Presence.

**ST JOHN'S IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE** to those with physical restrictions. An elevator to the sanctuary is located along the side entrance of the church. Hearing aids and audio loops are available at the 11 am service. Large print bulletins are available at the 11 am service. Our ushers will be glad to assist you.

# Gathering

**Welcome** *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

**Prelude**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

Kevin Agner, cello

## **Call to Worship and Prayers of Confession**

*As we gather for worship, you are invited to make the sign of the cross as a sign of your baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **God's Promise of Forgiveness**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** *The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*

**Entrance Hymn 853**

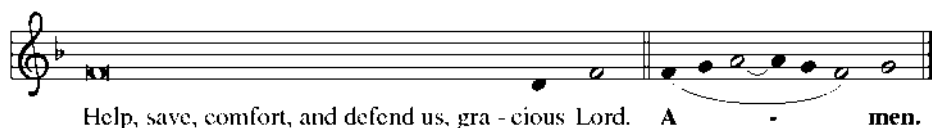
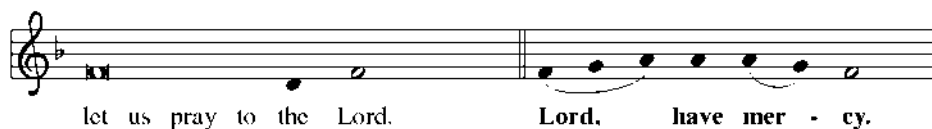
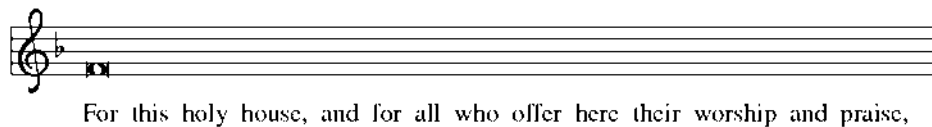
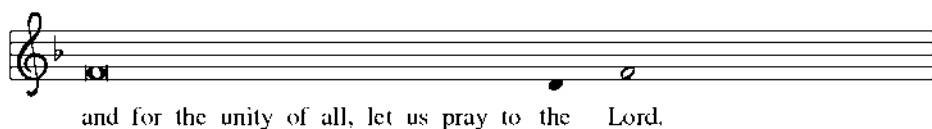
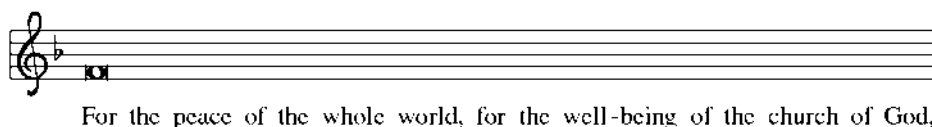
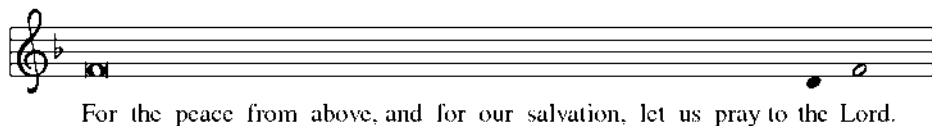
*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

Verses 1-3 and 5

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.** *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Prayer of St. Augustine*

*Please be seated*

## Word

**First Reading:** Micah 6:6-8

*What God requires*

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:1-5

*The new life in Christ*

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Worship** *Children are invited to leave for Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*

Ondria Witt, Rob Durocher

*Refrain*

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*Please stand*

**Hymn 769**

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You* WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*Please be seated*

**Welcome Rite for Deacons**

Rob Durocher, Karl Kinard, Wayne Nelson

**Collection of our Tithes and Offerings**

**Anthem**

*Offertory*  
Micah 6:6-8

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves?  
Would my Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God.

**Offertory Hymn.** *As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession.** *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

**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.**

# Sending

## Benediction

## Sending Hymn

*Together We Go Forth*

Found in front of ELW

*This hymn was written in 1997 by Dan Brown (words) and Karl and Rosemary Kinard (music) to mark the 250th anniversary of St. John's.*

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.