

— THE —
PARABLE
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TALENTS

The Parable of the Talents

July 23, 2017
8:30 am

St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, North Carolina



Welcome to St. John's!

Please note that today's service is printed entirely in this worship booklet.

*Occasionally you will be invited to turn to a hymn
in the red book, 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.

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.

Grape juice and non-gluten wafers are available. Please indicate your preference to the pastor. Persons with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew. Welcome to the Lord's Table!

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

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide

Paul Mantz

Gary Rhodes, trumpet

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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

Please stand, turning towards the cross of Christ.

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 873

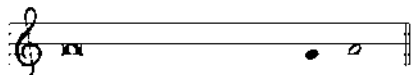
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

MARION

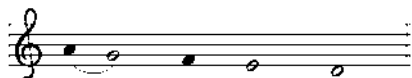
Verses 1-3, 6

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.**

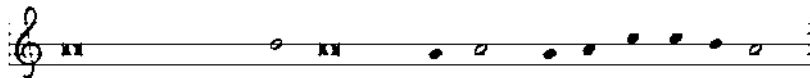
Kyrie. *A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.*



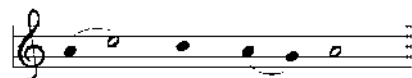
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



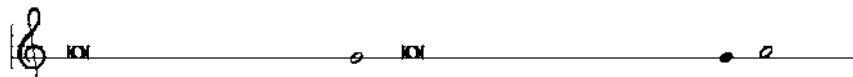
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



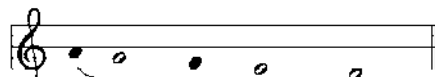
Lord, have mer - cy.



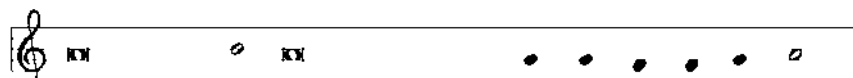
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



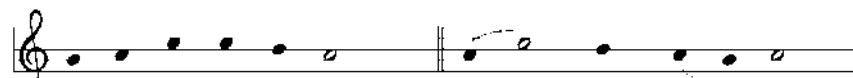
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



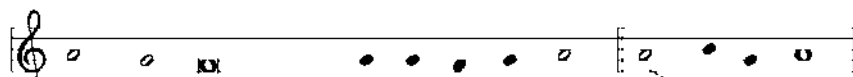
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

All



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

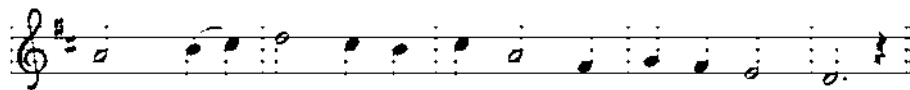
All



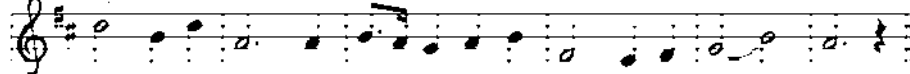
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



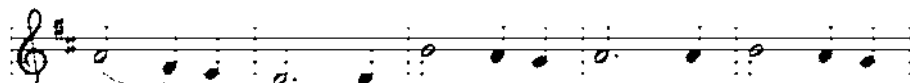
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



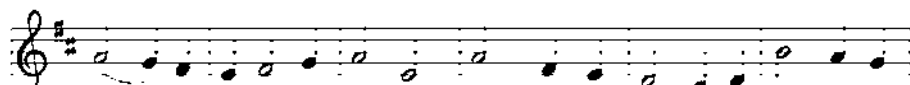
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Repeat

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



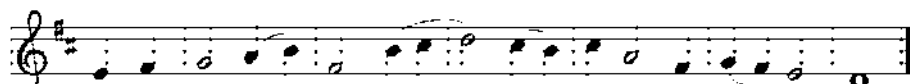
hymn of all ere - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final repeat

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

First Reading:

Micah 6:6-8

What God requires

⁶"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?

⁷Will 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?"

⁸He 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

¹I 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. ²Do 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.

³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so 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.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 *Read from The Message translation*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Sermon Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Please stand

Hymn 769 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*
 WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Apostles' Creed. *The three paragraphs of the Creed express our belief in the three-fold nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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.**

Prayers of Intercession *Each petition ends: "Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**" The congregation is invited to speak the words of the final petition, drawn from Martin Luther's "Morning Prayer:"*

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our lives and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe have no power over us. **Amen.**

Meal

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, and Preparation of the Lord's Table

Offering Voluntary

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide

Georg Boehm

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings the Doxology, ELW 884

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn: *Response music, page 153, ELW.*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer, *followed by the Lord's Prayer, p. 154, front of red ELW*

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion, *see page 2 of bulletin for instructions.*

Hymn *Lamb of God, p. 154, front of red ELW*

Blessing and Prayer

Sending

God blesses us and invites us to help advance his kingdom

Benediction

Sending Hymn 537

On Our Way Rejoicing

HERMAS

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Praise Him With Trumpets

Richard Blake

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