



WELLDONE,
GOOD AND
FAITHFUL
SERVANT

MATTHEW 25:23, NIV

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 W. Lochmere Drive Cary, NC 27518
919-851-7248 WWW.RLCARY.ORG

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 2020 – 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

The Day of our Lord is coming. As we wait without anxiety or fear, we focus on what He has done to prepare us for that Day. He has called us from darkness into His Marvelous Light. By the aid of His Holy Spirit, we learn to live as children of Light---watching and waiting for His return. Until then, we live in the Master's Joy – trusting in his Goodness – and being faithful with what He entrusts us. To one He gives ten talents, to another five, and to another one. All are His Gifts, to be used for His Purpose. We are each different, but uniquely precious, and we use them for His Glory. And He promises us that we will enter into His Joy.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at this worship service.

All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and who affirm the following are welcome to come forward to receive it:

- I am a fallen and sinful person in need of God's forgiveness;
- The Sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine instituted by Christ Himself for us to eat and to drink;
- In the Sacrament, everyone who believes the words "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," receives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

At Resurrection Lutheran Church children who are baptized as infants are instructed so that they may receive Holy Communion understanding what it is we are looking for, and why we are coming. Newcomers to Resurrection Lutheran Church receive the opportunity for in-depth catechetical instruction. If you and/or your children of any age are not prepared to receive the Lord's Supper with this same statement of faith, you are requested to refrain from receiving Holy Communion at this time.

We do, however, welcome you and the members of your family to come forward to receive a blessing. Please either stand still with head bowed or fold your arms across your body as a sign to receive the verbal blessing.

Grape juice is available in the center of each tray of individual cups for those who cannot tolerate wine; and gluten free wafers are also available in the center of the paten, if needed. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Thanksgiving Bells – arr. B. B. Kinyon

Heavenly Handbells

I. For the Beauty of the Earth

II. We Gather Together

GREETING

RECOGNITION OF ANNIVERSARY IN MINISTRY

MARGARET HYATT – 25 YEARS

❖ INVOCATION

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Lord, You have set our iniquities before You,

C **our secret sins in the light of Your Presence.** (*Psalm 90:8*)

P Let us go to God in humility and repentance that He may graciously forgive us.
Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we have not trusted You completely. We have forgotten that through Your Son our sins are forgiven; we have thought that our deeds would save us on the Last Day; we have kept parts of our lives hidden from others and thought they were hidden from You as well.**

C Open our hearts so that we need not fear the Last Day and its judgment, but live each day in Your Light, loving You above all else in heart, mind, and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves.

P Although we deserve nothing but punishment, by the Grace of God for Jesus' Sake, our Heavenly Father declares us to be "children of light, children of the day", His "good and faithful servants" (*1 Thessalonians 5:5*) (*Matthew 25:21a*).
Therefore, as a Called and ordained servant of Christ and by His Authority I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying - arr. J. S. Bach
Quartet, vs. 1-2 **All vs. 3**

LSB 516

1. *"Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, at last."
Midnight bears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
Arise, prepare the feast is here; Go meet the Lord as He draws near."*

2. *Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear freind comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, And follow to the banquet hall.*

**3. Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!**

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❖ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Zephaniah 1:7-16

(A prophecy of the great and terrible Day of the Lord)

Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the Day of the LORD is near.

The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has consecrated those He has invited. On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the princes and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes.

On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.

"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills.

Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be ruined.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.'

Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished.

They will build houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine.

"The great Day of the LORD is near-- near and coming quickly. Listen!

The cry on the Day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That Day will be a Day of wrath, a Day of distress and anguish, a Day of trouble and ruin, a Day of darkness and gloom, a Day of clouds and blackness, a Day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 149: 1-2

Cantate Domino (Come Ye With Joyfulness) - G. O. Pitoni

Cantus Christe Quartet

Cantate Domino, cantate, cantate,
Cantate Domino canticum novum:
Laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum.
Laetetur Israel in eo, laetetur, laetetur in eo

*Come ye with joyfulness, come, sing ye, come, sing ye,
O come ye, sing a new song to your maker:
O praise Him with the saintly congregation.
Israel, be joyful and glad in Him, be joyful and glad
in Him, in Him
Who made Israel:
And children of Sion, ye children of Sion rejoice and be glad in
your King,
Be joyful, rejoice and be glad in your King.*

Qui fecit eum:
Et filiae Sion, et filiae Sion exultent in rege suo,
Exultent, exultent, in rege suo.

EPISTLE

I Thessalonians 5:1–11

(We are children of light, who build each other up.)

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this Day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of Salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bob Unger

❖ **ALLELUIA VERSE**

P Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given,
C **and they will have an abundance. Alleluia.** *(Matthew 25:29a)*

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:14-30

(The Parable of the Talents)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "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!" "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "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!' "Then the man who had received the one talent 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. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "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?

Well 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. "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.

Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Fight the Good Fight

Quartet, vs. 1-3

All vs. 4

LSB 664

1. Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

2. Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3. Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide. Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

4. Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear; Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

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SERMON The True Gift of Treasure Unearthed Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Matthew 25:14-30

(See sermon notes page last page)



CREED

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into Heaven
and sits at the Right Hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
Whose Kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the ☩ Life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER FOR NEWLY COMMISSIONED STEPHEN MINISTERS

Tom Gebbia, Devin Hilledale, Sandy Parks

- P O God, we ask you to take these sister and brothers into Your Care.
You have blessed them with gifts and talents and provided them with an opportunity to learn more about helping people. May they serve You with the Holy Spirit's Power. Make them quick to serve, patient in listening, willing to share.
- C **Make us grateful for them, and support them with Your Mercy and Joy. Keep them strong in the faith in Christ Jesus, Who cares for all of us in every way forever. Amen.**

❖ **GREETING OF PEACE**

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)
Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, rlcary.org, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

For All the Saints – arr. K. McChesney

Heavenly Handbells

❖ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

- P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

- P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

+ **SACRAMENT** +

❖ **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- P Blessed are You, Lord of Heaven and earth, for You sent Your Only-Begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. He has also accompanied us in our walk of faith, nourishing us with His Word and Christ's true Body and Blood, ever preparing us to be ready to meet Him when He returns to usher us into the eternal Wedding Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end.
Grant that we may receive Him now by faith in this foretaste of the Feast to come.
Keep us strong until faith gives way to sight on the Last Day.
To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

❖ **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took, bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." *(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

❖ **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P Lord Jesus Christ, in giving us Your Body and Blood to eat and drink, You cause us to remember Your whole work of redemption, Your Incarnation and Birth, Your Suffering and Death, Your Resurrection and Ascension, and Your Promised Return. And we ask that You remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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.**

❖ **PEACE**

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Maintaining physical space of 6 feet behind and to the side of each communicant (small children may stand with parents), please follow usher instructions to enter the central aisle and approach the distribution area. There are six small tables between the pews and chancel area. Worshippers sitting on the left side of the sanctuary (facing the altar) will turn left to commune, and those sitting on the right side will turn to the right. Having removed your mask, please approach the first table corresponding to the side of the sanctuary where you are seated. It contains a large paten for communion host (gluten free wafers are available in the middle of the paten). Receive the host while standing to the side of these tables. Upon receiving the host, please approach the tray of individual cups at the worship leader's guiding and receive the wine to the side of the table. Empty cups are placed in the tray or basket on the third table. We recommend removing your mask to receive Holy Communion by touching ear loops or head straps only.

MUSICAL OFFERING,

MUSIC DURING THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Clouds of Judgement Gather

LSB 513 (Tune: LSB 660)

1. The clouds of judgment gather, The time is growing late;
Be sober and be watchful, Our judge is at the gate:
The judge who comes in mercy, The judge who comes in might
To put an end to evil And diadem the right.

2. Arise, O true disciples; Let wrong give way to right,
And penitential shadow To Jesus' blessed light:
The light that has no evening, That knows no moon or sun,
The light so new and golden, The light that is but one.

3. The home of fadeless splendor, Of blooms that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children Who here as exiles mourn;
The peace of all the faithful, The calm of all the blest,
Inviolable, unfading, Divinest, sweetest, best.

4. Oh, happy, holy portion, Relief for all distressed,
True vision of true beauty, Refreshment for the blest!
Strive now to win that glory, Toil now to gain that light;
Send hope ahead to grasp it Till hope be lost in sight.

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❖ **DISMISSAL BLESSING**

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body
and soul to Life Everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

❖ **THANKSGIVING**

P Thanks and praise to You, Almighty God, for nourishing us through this gracious
sacrament.

C **Keep us strong in faith, we pray, that we may be ready when Your Son returns
to usher us into the Heavenly Banquet. To You be all the glory, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Christ Is Surely Coming
Quartet, vs. 1-2

All vs. 3

LSB 509

*1. Christ is surely coming Bringing His reward,
Alpha and Omega, First and Last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David, Brilliant Morning Star;
Meet your Judge and Savior, Nations near and far!*

*2. See the holy city! There they enter in,
All by Christ made holy, Washed from ev'ry sin:
Thirsty ones, desiring All He loves to give,
Come for living water, Freely drink, and live!*

**3. Grace be with God's people! Praise His holy name!
Father, Son and Spirit, Evermore the same;
Hear the certain promise From the_ eternal home:
"Surely I come quickly! Come, Lord Jesus, come!"**

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POSTLUDE

Thanksgiving Bells – arr. B. B. Kinyon
I. Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Heavenly Handbells

**Worshippers should await usher instructions before exiting the sanctuary.
We will dismiss by rows, starting in the back.**

Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Organist/Pianist/Director.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Lector.....Melinda Stephani
Usher.....Roy Rhoden
Greeter.....Sandy Wuori
Coordinator/Altar Care.....Donna Krupcale
Cantus Christe Quartet
Mark Dirks, Garry Grabow, Jim Linn, Dan Shaltanis
Heavenly Handbells

The True Gift of Treasure Unearthed
Proper 28 (Matthew 25:14–31)

What gifts (time...experience...creativity...vocation) have you received from God’s merciful hand? Jesus invites us to approach Thanksgiving this month by looking for “buried treasure” that only He can bring to light. Not all have received the same measure of gifts. But each of us has received the grace to lean on the Giver and “sin boldly” in enlisting our gifts in service to Christ and others!

1. **Today we focus on the second of three parables about the _____.** Though not strictly a call away from foolishness to wisdom, Jesus’ parable today again gives the brutal option of two alternatives: 1) seeing “scarcity” and so burying the gifts God gives or 2) boldly working with whatever measure of gifts God gives. We fail to do “2.” Jesus’ parable calls us to repentance.
2. **How much _____ do I have?** The person in the parable who received a smaller/less significant gift from his master was too afraid to put that gift to use. Was he afraid of losing it, or of putting it to work openly? We don’t know. We DO know he lived in fear of his master (25:25). Such misplaced fear was, ironically, the reason for his master’s rebuke!

3. **Jesus brings our buried treasure out into the open by _____**.
Jesus reflects the heart of our heavenly Master...who has given us His abundant gifts to put to work in the first place! Jesus is at work in us, despite our mistakes and fears. His perfect love “cast[s] out all fear” (1 John 4:18).

4. **Jesus is with us in our “_____” enabling us to _____, in spite of it!**
There are so many areas of life right now that overshadow our treasure: COVID and the family traditions that are put on hold because of it will no doubt play a part. But no matter what the present (or future) may hold, Jesus’ faithful sacrifice for our sins has paid the price we could not. Jesus uncovers our treasure and “works it” in new ways this year! We await His return...and while waiting, look forward to His welcome: “Well done, good and faithful servant!”