



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Whoever has love receives other gifts as well. Whoever does not have love loses even the gifts he appeared to have received. Hence it is necessary, my friends, that in everything you do, you be diligent about guarding love. True love is to love your friend in God and your enemy for the sake of God.” — Gregory the Great, Forty Gospel Homilies 9.6

Dear Saints,

12 Nov. 2020

This week and next our meditation will remain in St. Matthew’s Gospel as we journey through toward the end of this mini-season of four weeks fixed on the *parousia* of the Lord, culminating in the Sunday of the Fulfillment — the last Sunday of the church year, when Christ is depicted as “all in all” on the Last Day.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus makes a connection with the preceding parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (or Virgins) by using similar terminology. They’re making a similar point. A man going on a trip summoned his three servants and gives them five talents, two, and one, respectively. The first two traded wisely and doubled their allotments. The last servant dug a hole in the ground and hid what he had been given.

When the man returned, the first two are rewarded. The third is condemned and even what he had was taken from him. Perhaps no parable has been more misused than Jesus’ parable of the talents. The point is missed — it’s not about a timeless truth concerning finances. It’s about judgment on the remaining two tribes of Israel and, so, what Israel had will be taken from them and given to others. In other words, the Lord will reconstitute Israel not around the scribes and Pharisees (the wicked, unprofitable servant), but around the fulfillment of Moses and the Prophets. And the Lord will do this through the Messiah to whom both the Law and Prophets bear witness.

This challenging text, like last week, calls us to see that God has always planned to rescue the world through Israel and that all of Israel’s history, hopes, and destiny have come to bear on His Messiah ... not on our particular management of “talents.” This should come as good news. The talent now in our hands, committed to our care, is the Holy Gospel. We dare not bury it by failing to assemble. So let us rejoice and do so singing and proclaiming the great works of God in Christ.

This past week the Church Calendar hallmarked the commemoration of St. Justinian the Great (14 Nov.), St. Martin’s death (11 Nov.) and the birth of Martin Luther (10 Nov.), and the birth of Bishop and Confessor, Martin Chemnitz (9 Nov.). These saints and confessors are part of our family and remembered before God in our prayer of the church, as they abide in His presence.

Sunday Mass. Proper 28. Color green. Sermon: “Bear Market Jesus.” Hymns: Processional: **534**; Hymn of Praise: **Gloria In Excelsis**; Hymn of the Day: **761**; Recessional: **922**. Psalm **70** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**. The lessons for the next two Sundays:

Nov. 15 (Proper 28)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Zeph. 1:7–16	Psalm 90:1–12	1 Thess. 5:1–11	Matt. 25:14–30
Nov. 22	Sunday of the Fulfillment	Ezek. 34:11-24	Psalm 95	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Matt. 25:31-46

Hymns for 22 Nov. Sunday of the Fulfillment. Processional: **670**; Hymn of Praise: **This is the Feast**; Hymn of the Day: **671**; Recessional: **802**. Psalm **95** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**.

First Holy Communion catechumens gather 1530-1630 Friday at the Bombaro home. Next week catechumens will schedule private confession to receive Holy Absolution with Pastor Bombaro.

Catechesis. Every Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with the 9th lesson in “Loving the Liturgy.” In the new year

Prayers for the saints in our midst. Sandi, a friend of the Drake family; the mother of Jennifer Hass; the Rev. Dr. Charles Cortright (Pr Bombaro’s colleague in Riga); Samantha’s upcoming surgery; Ken Adams; the persecuted church in Pakistan; our First Holy Communion catechumens.

Resources. From master expositor, Rev. Dr. Art Just:

<https://issuesetc.org/2020/11/04/3092-jesus-and-table-fellowship-dr-arthur-just-11-4-20/> on Issues, Etc. This episode is pure gold. Prepare your mind and heart for the significance of the First Holy Communion of our catechumens next week with this in-depth exploration of “table fellowship” within the Luke’s Gospel. 10/10!

Upcoming Events. (1) First Holy Communion for Zoe and Wolfgang Sousa, Joseph Fourroux, Noah, Ethan, and Luke MacPherson on the Sunday of the Fulfillment.

There are many excellent hymns in LBS for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We will use the following during the coming seasons (Yes, some Christmas hymns will appear in Advent): LSB Advent 331, 332, 338, 348, 350, 352, 355, 356, 357, Christmas 358, 359, 361, 362, 363, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 374, 376, 377, 379, 380, 384, 386, 387, 393. Families are strongly encouraged to order copies of the Lutheran Service Book from Concordia Publishing House for singing and devotions at home.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John