

**Morning Prayer**  
**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Proper 28 - Year A  
November 15, 2020



*The Parable of the Talents*  
Annette Gandy Fortt

**Opening Sentence**

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth.  
*John 4:24*

**Gathering Reflection**

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

**Opening Hymn**

*Signs of endings all around us*

WLP#721

Signs of ending all around us; darkness, death and winter days shroud our lives in fear and sadness, dumbing mouths that long to praise.

Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free. Give us hope and faith and gladness. Show us what there yet can be.

Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create?  
Life from death and from our failings, realms of wholeness generate?  
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew.  
Fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you.

Speak, O God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill.  
Life from death, and from our rendings, terrors calm, forebodings still.  
Let your promised realm of justice blossom now throughout the earth;  
Your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.

## **Confession**

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Minister and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **Invitatory Psalm**

Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

*Domine, refugium*

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it  
is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 **In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 **Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- 12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

## **Doxology**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Lessons**

*Lector:* A reading from First Thessalonians

*1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for

those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit was saying to the people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 13**

#### ***Usquequo, Domine?***

- 1 How long, O LORD?  
will you forget me for ever? \*  
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day? \*  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; \*  
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

### **Gradual Hymn**

*Alleluia*

Celebrate: #63

Verse 1: Alleluia

Verse 2: We will praise

God

Verse 3: Alleluia



*Sparrow*

Giovanni Da Udine

*Lector:* A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

*Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

*Lector:* Here what the Spirit was saying to the people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Homily**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**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 again 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.**

*Intercessor* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Intercessor* Let us pray.

### **Suffrages**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. **And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

***Please add your intercessions here, silently or aloud...***

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** I want to walk as a child of the light H-490

**I want to walk as a child of the light  
I want to follow Jesus  
God sent the stars to give light to the world  
The star of my life is Jesus**

**In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

**I want to see the brightness of God  
I want to look at Jesus  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
And show me the way to the Father**

**In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus**

**In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

### **Concluding Sentence**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20*

Postlude:

*Voluntary in C -*

William Croft



*Fall Trees*  
Sherman Memorial Garden

Our Morning Prayer setting comes from the Episcopal Liturgical Resource *Enriching Our Worship*.