

24th Sunday after Pentecost – November 15, 2020

Southwest California Synod Digital Worship

Welcome – Pastor Brenda Bos

Gathering Song – Closer – Ále Suarez

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7 – Bill Richards

¹We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints — ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. ⁷Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

Second Reading: Psalms 136: 1-6, 26 – Karla Richards

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

²O give thanks to the God of gods, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

³O give thanks to the LORD of lords, for God's steadfast love endures forever;

⁴who alone does great wonders, for God's steadfast love endures forever;

⁵who by understanding made the heavens, for God's steadfast love endures forever;

⁶who spread out the earth on the waters, for God's steadfast love endures forever;

²⁶O give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Children's Chat – Anthony Eder – Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences

Gospel lesson: Matthew 25:14-29

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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.

Ministry Moment – Jim Kelch & Pastor George Villa – First, Inglewood

Sermon – Interim Bishop Murray D. Finck

Ministry Moment – Still Waters Pantry – Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley

Sermon Song – "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" – Ále Suarez

Prayers of God's People – Bill and Karla Richards

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, let us pray to see God's power in the church and in the world, responding to each petition with the words "Hear us and help us."

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to assist with worship and to lead congregational ministries in this difficult time. Grant an extra measure of the Spirit to our pastors and deacons, our church councils and our bishops. Protect your people with the armor of your Word.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth:

Hear us and help us.

For all the nations we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a worldwide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights. Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth, and give a homeland to migrants.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Haven we seek:

Hear us and help us.

For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future. Bless all newly elected officials, especially President-elect Biden, with a passion for justice and a commitment to honesty.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress:
Hear us and help us.

We pray for all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID-19. Give food, employment, and housing to the countless who are struggling to live.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Physician, our Nurse:
Hear us and help us.

Receive these prayers, and in your gracious mercy grant your strength to our neediness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending Song: "I'll Do My Best" – LRCC

Blessing – Bishop Finck

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ⁺ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal – Bishop Finck

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.