



“The Parable of Talents” by John Morgan

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 15, 2020  
8:00 a.m.**

Grace Episcopal Church  
123 W. Washington Street  
Lexington, VA 24450  
[www.graceepiscopallexington.org](http://www.graceepiscopallexington.org)

**Celebrant**  
The Rev. Tucker Bowerfind, Rector

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Lexington Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome to everyone joining us on Facebook Live and Zoom!

### Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pg. 323

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto 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 thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Glory be to God on high,

and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,

we worship thee,

we glorify thee,

we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;

thou only art the Lord;

thou only, O Christ,

with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day (Proper 28)

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The Lessons

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said

to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

### **Psalm 123**

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, \*  
    to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*  
    and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, \*  
    until he show us his mercy.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, \*  
    for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
    and of the derision of the proud.

### **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.

### **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.””

## The Sermon

Fr. Tuck

### The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

*Please pray for the wider Church and intercessions requested by our Congregants:*

*Pray for The Anglican Communion, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Standing Committee of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines, the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Justin Badi Arama, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, and our Bishop Mark Bourlakas. Pray today for the Members of the Executive Board and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.*

*Pray for Bettie Cadden, Lynda DeMaria, Bob DeMaria, Pam Holsten, Jordan (friend of David Cox), Lynne Johnson, Melissa Hays-Smith, Susan Williams, Ned Glenn (Brother of Elizabeth Harralson), Olivia Patton, Liz Moss, Jeanne Eichelberger, Rachel Pattison, Ely Turner (friend of Rob Minor), Peter Fyfe, Jack Hershbell, The. Rev. Butch Eanes (friend of Carol and Lynn Dent), Pat Gibson, Eloise Adams, Punky Dod, Jenni Dod (niece of Punky Dod).*

*Pray for those serving in the military, especially Michael Bryant.*

*Pray for those who have died, especially Joseph Cumming, father of Doug Cumming and Ana Olive, friend of Nat Massie.*

*Pray for those affected by unsafe living conditions, poverty, disease, especially Covid-19, violence and oppression.*

*In thanksgiving for the birthdays for this week and next of Tim Price (11/15), René Glidden (11/15), Amy Holston*

(11/15), *France Harcus* (11/18), *Steven Lawrence* (11/19), *Hank Humphreys* (11/19), *Tim Gaylard* (11/21), *Ryan Holston* (11/21), *Liam Murphy* (11/21), *Kristi Finnell* (11/23), *Bill Kozak* (11/23), *Becca Russell* (11/24), *Jack Hershbell* (11/27), *Anne Blanken* (11/27), *Avery Hess* (11/27), *Robert Glidden* (11/29), *Harry Warner* (11/30), *Brant Hellwig* (11/30).

**Celebrant:** Let us rise from our spiritual complacency and offer our prayers to God, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

**Reader:** That our local and federal judges may have the wisdom of the prophet Deborah, whose strength was revealed in passing judgment for condemnation when necessary and for growth when warranted; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may clothe each other with faith and love, hope and salvation, encouraging one another in discipleship and building up one another for the growth of Christ’s Body, the Church; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may expose our gifts to the light of day, using them as instruments of salvation for those who live on the margins of society, and for those who though rich, have an emptiness too painful to expose; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our treasures of time and money may be used wisely, to our personal benefit and for the betterment of our Church and society; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may humbly open our hands to receive the Bread of Life, and joyfully drink the Cup of Salvation, becoming one with Christ in his death and risen life; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who have died may come to the glory of that place where the noise of daily life has given way to the peace of eternal rest; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** Lord God Almighty, who hast made all the peoples of the earth for thy glory, to serve thee in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with thy gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

**Celebrant:** Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

**Celebrant & People:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. *Amen.*

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

## The Holy Communion

### *Offertory*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

#### *Eucharistic Prayer I*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

#### *Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

#### *Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ,

and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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,

    for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. Those not receiving communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply signify by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*Celebrant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People      Thanks be to God.

**Readers**

William McCorkle, Hank Humphreys, Lu Dooley

**Ushers**

Holt Merchant, Paul Robblee, Joanne Robblee

**Altar Guild**

Elizabeth Harralson, Marlys Craun, Sharon Humphreys, Nancy Walker,  
Diana Kenney, Julie Grover, Sue Denson, Elizabeth Branner. Jane Brooke, Chair

**Flower Guild**

Elizabeth Boetsch, Claudia Ellis, Gail Dick, Rene Glidden, Carol Gosse, Catherine Harcus,  
Elizabeth Harralson, Peggy Riethmiller, Joy Harris, Kathy Kozak

**Clergy, Staff and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church**

Wendy Moses Bearden, Financial Secretary ([bookkeeper@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:bookkeeper@graceepiscopallexington.org))

The Rev. Tuck Bowerfind, Rector ([frtuck@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:frtuck@graceepiscopallexington.org))

Connie Bryant, Sexton

Martha Jones Burford, Minister of Music ([martha@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:martha@graceepiscopallexington.org))

Sharon Massie, Program Director ([sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org))

Lisa McGuire, Parish Administrator ([lisa@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:lisa@graceepiscopallexington.org))

David Connolly (term ends 2022), Gail Dickerson, Sr. Warden ([gdickerson447@gmail.com](mailto:gdickerson447@gmail.com), term ends 2020),  
Punky Dod (term ends 2021), Don Ellis (term ends 2020), Tom Gosse (term ends 2020), Diana Kenney (term ends 2022), William McCorkle (term ends 2022), John Milford (term ends 2022), Elizabeth Moss, Jr. Warden ([emoss267@gmail.com](mailto:emoss267@gmail.com), term Ends 2021), Judy Schram (term ends 2021), Steve Shultis (term ends 2020), Cecile West-Settle. (term ends 2021), Buster Lewis, Treasurer (term ends 2020), Lisa McGuire, Clerk (term ends 2020).