

Prelude *The Lord will come and not be slow*

Opening Hymn *O God of every nation*

Celebrant *Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier*

People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

God be with you

People And also with you

Celebrant *Let us pray*

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 - 18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
“The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.”
Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out
like dust, and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Reader may say

If you were content Lord, you would not bother us; but you are restless.

*People: May your restlessness be born in us, that you upset our easiness and
require us to respond.*

Psalm 90 *Sung (Words on screen)*

A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

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.

The Reader may say

Use me, O Lord, for the work you have me do.

People: And taking me, help me not to resist you.

Gradual *With my own two hands*

The Holy Gospel

Then the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25: 14 - 30)

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.’”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Dr. Sherrill Munn

Sermon Hymn *Spirit of Jesus if I love my neighbor*

An Affirmation of Faith *(New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)*

Celebrant: We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

People: We believe in God: Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus, The Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:
To celebrate God’s presence,

*To love and to serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

An Invitation to Repentance

The Celebrant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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 that 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.

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

The Prayers of the People

Inspired by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the ministers of the church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Robert our Bishops, Ken and Lisa, our clergy, Betsy, our clergy emeritus. Kip, Patrick, Deb, Tom and Barbara, our wardens, Steve, our treasurer; for our vestry and other mission leaders, and for those who serve the Gospel at Holy Trinity, Baltimore; St Bartholomew's, Baltimore; and, Memorial, Baltimore; and, for Mario R. Conliffe, David J. Ware and Kristen Krantz *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For every member of the human family, that we be guided to all truth by the Spirit of truth *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the stewards of the earth, and for the renewed witness to the gospel among people serving in positions of public trust, especially for Donald, President of the United States, Larry, Governor of the State of Maryland, and those who serve us in County and State; that all accept creation as a wondrous gift, and work to preserve its beauty, and the dignity and respect of all creatures great and small *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all the sick and suffering, the lonely and the dying, especially all others we raise before you...

(Members are encouraged to pray silently or aloud for those known and unknown to our community. When all petitions have been offered, and a period of silence has been kept, the leader continues...)

That their affliction lead to endurance, their endurance to virtue, and their virtue to hope *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died, especially Randy Fidler, and for those who mourn them *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted, *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. We remember our Black brothers and sisters, beloved children of God, groaning under the weight of redlining, segregation, underfunded schools, unequal economic opportunity, indignity, and ever-present fear. We pray for those who protest, those whose lives and property have been disrupted and for those who seek to maintain order and safety. May your generous and gentle spirit be present. We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and the grief and anger in our communities. We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often

without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments and who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, and who feel afraid for themselves, their partners, their families, and their fellow citizens. We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We know that the sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Help us turn away from this sin of division and toward your all-encompassing love.

Silence we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

For our nation, in this time of uncertainty and crisis. We raise before you our fears, our anxiety, our deepest concerns and our greatest hopes. We pray that you will bring us together in this moment as a people; that we may rise as one to the single purpose of doing all in our power to protect dignity, promote justice, and support the healing and safety and recovery of all our neighbors, near and far, that in committing ourselves to the welfare of the other we may discover that the love that binds us is greater than anything that might separate us. *Silence* we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

The Celebrant continues

O God, from whom good things flow, we thank you and bless you. Answer our prayers and bring us hope through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives with you in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you
People And also with you

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings
Stewardship Minute

The Holy Communion

The Offertory *People get ready* C. Mayfield Perf. By Karyn Custis Boutin

Celebrant: Loving God, in the service of your Kingdom, grant us the peace we may have, show us the peace we should seek.

People: And give us the strength to do without, especially the peace we must forego for Jesus' sake.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Author of all that is good and holy. For by water and the Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your love and reconciliation in all the world. Therefore, with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of the children of Abraham to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is God's new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we acclaim you, O Christ,

Celebrant and People:

This is the death we celebrate This is the new life we proclaim
This is the vision we live

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

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

People and Celebrant

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

Celebrant: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of one loaf and drink from one cup.

People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with you, and one with each other

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

Benediction

Closing Hymn *God of grace and God of glory*

*Our weekly **stewardship message** is printed on the next page... (So keep reading!!)*

November 15, 2020

Risking our lives to find them

BY THE REV. CHRIS HARRIS



*How do I find greater meaning and purpose in my life?
Why is happiness so fleeting and a lasting joy so elusive?
Who am I and what am I supposed to do with the rest of
my life?*

These are some of the big questions of life, and many of us begin to wrestle with them as we reach middle age and beyond. The best-selling book *The Second Mountain*, by David Brooks, suggests that we come to these questions most urgently when the “first mountain” of our life fails us either because we discover it to be ultimately unfulfilling (such as a life focused on financial success or career goals) or when it crumbles beneath our feet (as the result of a divorce or a life-changing health crisis).

According to Brooks, most of us don’t come looking for the “second mountain” of our lives until we’ve been thrown off the first somehow. Until then, when life is still going our way, we don’t have the eyes to see or the ears to hear. But when we finally are forced off our perches, we have the chance to discover for ourselves what Jesus has tried to tell us all along – that meaning and purpose come not from our accomplishments, our perfect families, or even perfect health, but by risking all that we are and all that we have for the sake of others.

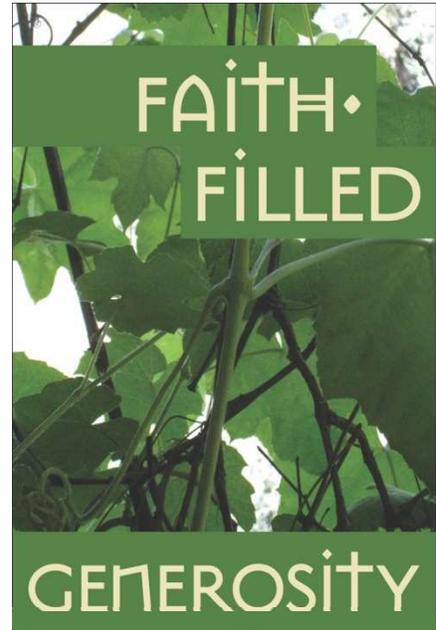
If you are someone looking for the second mountain of your life, the question at the heart of our Gospel this week offers all the directions we need:

How will I risk the gifts I’ve been given, to do the work God is calling me to do?

Notice that the story turns on risk. Playing it safe, worrying about ourselves and what others will say about us, is the first mountain all over again. And a life of tepid generosity, one that is constrained by fear and our need for control, leaves us languishing in the valley.

Unless we are willing to risk it all for the sake of others – to take a leap into a Faith-Filled Generosity – we never reach the summit of a truly abundant life.

Chris Harris is Associate Rector of Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He serves on the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and the steering team for Invite-Welcome-Connect, a national evangelism ministry, and is creator of Living Wi\$ley, a faith and personal finance ministry.



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