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**25th Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for Sunday, November 19. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our vocalist. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is Matthew 25:14-30*. *Our readings during November speak of the end times. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.*

1. **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering Hymn** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  **# 632, vv 1-2**

1 O God, our help in ages past,

our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,

and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne

your saints have dwelt secure;

sufficient is your arm alone,

and our defense is sure.

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

1. **WORD**

**Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30** *(*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*)*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: 14“For 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.  30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Sin Boldly!?* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* **# 678, vv 1-2**

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,

from your rich and endless store:

nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,

costly cross, grave's shattered door,

gifted by you, we turn to you,

off'ring up ourselves in praise;

thankful song shall rise forever,

gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing

toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

all at peace in health and freedom,

races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,

lest we strive for self alone;

born with talents, make us servants

fit to answer at your throne.

**Prayers of the People**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth’s resources. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and Palestine, and those whom we now name in our hearts…. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(A brief silence.)*

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith … we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On Sunday, November 19, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30. And we celebrate Holy Communion! Afterwards we share coffee hour. All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, November 26, is Christ the King Sunday, our gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46.* Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

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—Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* **# 707, vv 1-2**

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us

with your lifeblood as the price,

never grudging for the lost ones

that tremendous sacrifice;

and with that have freely given

blessings countless as the sand

to the unthankful and the evil

with your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you

gladly, freely, of your own.

With the sunshine of your goodness

melt our thankless hearts of stone

till our cold and selfish natures,

warmed by you, at length believe

that more happy and more blessed

'tis to give than to receive.

**Dismissal**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, November 20. Psalm 9:1-14

Tuesday, Nov 21. Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4

Wednesday, Nov 22. Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday, November 23. Psalm 95:1-7

Friday, November 24. Revelation 22:1-9

Saturday, November 25. Matthew 12:46-50

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