

Grace Lutheran Church

416 W. Park Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701

Parable of the Talents



PARABLES
and possessions

Pastor
Chris Asbury
2800 Rolling Hills Dr.
402-302-4232

Associate Pastor
Ray S. Wilke
84607 Hadar Rd.
402-841-1785

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Norfolk, Nebraska

Chris Asbury, Pastor

402-302-4232

Ray W. Wilke, Associate Pastor

402-841-1785

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme of the Day: “You Had One Job. That’s a website featuring people who had one job and didn’t do it. In today’s parable, Jesus tells us, “You had one job.” What would that be?

FROM THE RECORDS OF LAST SUNDAY

<i>Attendance</i>	
Sunday.....	206

<i>Offerings</i>	
Operating Fund.....	\$5,753.80
Total Towards Budget	5,753.80
Needed to Meet Budget.....	13,416.00
Building Fund.....	20.00

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE

Saturday

Organist: Melodee Drenkow

Elders: Bronson Stonacek

Ushers: Mike Roeber, Wade Schaefer

Ushers:

Bryce Dennis, Ryan Freudenburg, Brandon Timmerman

Video Operator:

Clayton Scheffler

Greeters:

Fred & Nadine Aufdembrink

Acolytes:

Brooklynn Anderson, Kinley Cleveland

Sunday

Melodee Drenkow

Dan Green, Glenn Spreeman

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sunday:* Zephaniah 1:7-16; Matthew 25:14-30
- Monday:* Amos 3:1-11; 2 Peter 1:1-21
Quilting 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday:* Amos 5:1-24; 2 Peter 2:1-22
Men's Breakfast Study 7:00 a.m.
Moms & Tots 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday:* Amos 6:1-14; 2 Peter 3:1-18
Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday:* Amos 7:1-17; Jude 1-25
Office Closed
- Friday:* Amos 8:1-14; Mark 13:1-23
Office Closed
- Saturday:* Amos 9:1-15 Mark 13:24-37
Worship Service 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday:* Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Graceland 8:30 a.m.
Building Faithful Families 8:30 a.m.
Jr. High & Sr. High Youth 8:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 8:45 a.m.
Coffee/Fellowship Time 9:30 a.m.

Invocation and Call to Worship

(From selected verses in 2 Corinthians 8–9)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he as rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich.

C: Each one must give as he has decided in his heart.

P: Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

C: And God is able to make all grace abound.

P: So that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, we may abound in every good work.

C: So that we will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way.

P: For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints.

C: But is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

All: Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like “a man going on a journey, who called his slaves and entrusted to them his property.” *(Mt. 25:14)*

Almighty God—

C: If we are honest with you, we have a hard time believing this verse.

P: We think we own what we have.

C: That it’s our property to do with as we see best.

P: We think we can manage our possessions and money without you.

All: O God, we need your help.

P: Break us open.

C: Crack our shells.

P: Grant us repentance.

C: Forgive us and take us back.

P: Free to be yours.

C: Free to serve in Christ's holy name.

P: Jesus died on the cross to free us from the dark prison of greed.

He rose from the dead to shatter the doors of guilt and shame. For his sake and by his command I announce to you that your sins are fully and forever forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thanks be to God—

All: For his inexpressible gift!

Hymn: "The Earth is the Lord's" (St. Denio, LSB, 802)

(Written by Reed Lessing)

1. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

Redemption reminds us, O God, of your love.

By grace we are learning, as year leads to year.

We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

2. Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.

We fail to remember its beauty and worth.

We take from creation much more than we need,

We threaten your mission through excess and greed.

3. May we be good stewards of all that you give.

Extending your Gospel wherever we live.

May we be a church that renews and restores

And lovingly cares for these gifts that are yours.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, almighty Father, you have shown to the world your love in the most glorious sacrifice of your beloved Son. Fill us with this same sacrificial love that we may offer our resources for the sake of your kingdom and the salvation of many; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Children's Message

The Readings Are About Faithfully Using God's Gifts

Old Testament Lesson: Proverbs 11:24-28

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it. Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 14:7-12

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Adult Choir

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then

he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn: "Renew Me, O Eternal Light" LSB 704 v.1-3

Sermon

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

(played during offering)

"To God on High Be Glory" Lydia Bucklew

Offertory: "Renew Me, O Eternal Light" LSB 704 v.4

Prayers of the Church

P: Almighty God, you have named us and claimed us as your children in Holy Baptism and set us on a path to make disciples of all nations.

C: We praise you, O God our Redeemer Creator.

P: You call us to know the generosity of Jesus and to invest in the Gospel mission of our church and schools.

C: In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

P: There is no escape from your judgment, O Spirit of Holiness, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love.

C: We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you.

P: We offer our lives and gifts for caring use among the suffering; for gentle use among the hurting; for encouraging use among the dispirited; for powerful use in worldwide missions; and for worship, teaching and service within this church.

C: We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

(Prayer Requests)

P: Every good and perfect gift comes from you so we give you our petitions and we thank you for your abundant peace and provision. In Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day 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 Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus (*LSB p. 195*)



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei (*LSB p. 198*)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Distribution Hymns

“Eat This Bread” (<i>Choir sings verses—Sunday only</i>)	LSB 638
“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”	LSB 633
“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”	LSB 641
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”	LSB 643

Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: And His mercy endures forever.

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this good and perfect gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Now to him who is able to present us blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.

C: To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord—

P: Be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority.

C: Before all time and now and forever!

P: Thanks be to God--

All: For his inexpressible gift!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “We Praise You, O God”

LSB 785

NOTES AND NEWS

In the precious name of Jesus we welcome all who are worshiping with us in our service today. Through such worship and the hearing of His Word you will receive food for your soul, as well as many other blessings.

The Lutheran Hour: “Until that Day” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. No one knows when Christ will return. Until that day, we live in certain uncertainty (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). Hear the message Sunday on WJAG at 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

Stewardship Corner: Have you ever questioned why God often elevates the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: “so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” It is only by God’s grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God’s work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, “Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9b-10). God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIDBIT

A Servant’s Mission: Isaac and Rebekah; Genesis 24:10-28; 50-51 Abraham tasks a faithful servant with finding a wife for Isaac from Abraham’s homeland. The servant prays for a sign and waits at a well outside the city of Nahor. Rebekah appears, offering to raw water for both man and beast – the sign the servant had asked for. Rebekah invites the servant to come to her family home. Having received gifts from Abraham, Rebekah’s family sends her to Isaac with their blessing.

ASK YOUR CHILD: Why do you think it was so important to Abraham for Isaac to marry someone from his homeland and not marry a Canaanite? Who are the people in your life God has blessed you with? We certainly want to share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet, but how does having Christian friends and family help build us up in our faith? What is God’s will for marriage?

It’s time once again to order Poinsettias for the Christmas Season. Cost is \$17 each. Orders must be placed by Monday, December 4th. Please call the church office (402-371-1044) if you would like to order one or put your money in the Offering plate marked “Poinsettia.”

On, Thursday, November 30, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. Everyone from the congregation is invited and encouraged to help.

Pastor Asbury is with his family this weekend at All State Music.



For all High School Youth and/or Parents: This is the QR code for you to join the SportsYou App to be informed of youth Events.

For all 5-8th Grade Youth and/or Parents: This is the QR Code for you to join the SportsYou App to be informed of youth Events.



The LHNE Booster Club still has Eagle Cards available. You can now pick up one of those cards at the church office. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8-12 and 1-3 p.m. Cost of the cards are \$10.

Mark Your Calendars! Join us for the Turkey Trot on November 23rd. Proceeds will benefit all activities. The race starts at 8:00 AM. The route will start and end at LHNE. This year we will also have a run/walk for the younger kids in the parking lot. To register and get a cool t-shirt or to be a sponsor go to <http://bidpal.net/turkeytrot23> or text TurkeyTrot23 to 243725. We hope to see you there!

Prayer Works! We at Grace believe in the power of God to answer prayers. The Lord Himself encourages us to call upon Him. May we do this on your behalf? Please fill out a yellow Prayer Request Card and place it in our Prayer Request Box in the Narthex.

Hospitalized? Want a Pastor to visit? Please call the church or the pastors directly. Otherwise it is possible the hospital will not notify us.

The Mission Statement of Grace Lutheran Church

Founded and established in Grace, the people in this congregation seek to:

- † Provide a place to worship and to teach the Word of God in its truth and purity.
- † Administer the sacraments that the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of all members may be fulfilled.
- † Serve the unchurched and those in need with spiritual and physical provision that they may come to know our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross for all.

The Vision Statement of Grace Lutheran Church

Enhance Grace Lutheran as an outreaching, unified, and friendly congregation; support the area Lutheran high school; continue support of worldwide missions and in particular the Orphan Grain Train; and be receptive to change for a stronger ministry, with emphasis on youth.

Baptized Christians who confess their sins to God and one another, trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins, believe these words of Jesus in the Supper, and share our LCMS confession of faith are welcome with us to celebrate God's great gift of forgiveness and unity in Holy Communion. God warns that those who eat and drink Christ's body and blood in an "unworthy manner" do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). Therefore, these instructions are meant to guide us and should be taken seriously by all as we humbly look forward to every opportunity God gives us to celebrate this "foretaste of the feast to come." Those who have any questions of our Lord's Word regarding these instructions will want to first speak with one of our pastors. Our pastors appreciate the opportunity to teach and share more with you about God's greatest gifts of forgiveness and life in Jesus.

