

Sunday 15th November, 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent

The Parable
of the
Talents



Prayer and worship at home

Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Act of Penitence

*As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed
and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.*

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Special Prayer for this week

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Word of the Lord

First Reading | *Thessalonians 5. 1 - 11*

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 labour 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel | *Matthew 25. 14 - 30*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Glory to you, O Lord

'The kingdom of heaven 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
 from whom every family
 in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
 who lives in our hearts through faith,
 and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
 who strengthens us
 with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

*You may wish to offer prayer in your own words,
 or be prompted by the words here*

*We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety
 and fear...*

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we
 remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for
 those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all
 whom we remember with love and affection*

The Lord's Prayer

Joining with Christians throughout the world,
 we pray:

Our Father....

Or

Our Father in heaven....

The Grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God, and the fellowship of the
 Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen**

Readings for the coming week:

Monday	Psalm 47	Luke 18.35-end
Tuesday	Psalm 52	Luke 19.1-10
Wednesday	Psalm 56	Luke 19.11-28
Thursday	Psalm 62	Luke 19.41-44
Friday	Psalm 63	Luke 19.45-48
Saturday	Psalm 68	Luke 20.27-40