



The Kingdom Parables of Jesus: The Parable of the Talents

“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.”
(Matt 25:21)

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those
who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Psalm 105:1-4

Let us pray.

**May the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in your sight,
our Rock and our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Ps 19:14

Praise God, My Soul (Psalm 103, first part)

Praise God, my soul,
with all my heart
Let me exalt his holy name.
Forget not all his benefits;
His praise, my soul,
in song proclaim.

The LORD forgives you all your sins,
And heals your sickness
and distress;
Your life he rescues from the grave,
And crowns you in his tenderness.

He satisfies your deep desires
From his unending stores of good,
So that, just like
the eagle's strength,
Your youthful vigour is renewed.

The LORD is known
for righteous acts
And justice to downtrodden ones.
To Moses he made known his ways,
His mighty deeds to Israel's sons.

The LORD is merciful and kind,
To anger slow, and full of grace.
He will not constantly reprove,
Or in his anger hide his face.
He does not punish our misdeeds,
Or give our sins
their just reward.
How great his love –
as high as heaven
Towards all those
who fear the LORD!

Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from the Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”* *Prov 28:13*

Let us therefore confess our sins against God,
and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."
(Rom 8:1-2)*

Psalm 103 (second part)

As far as east is from the west,
So far his love has borne away
Our many sins and trespasses
And all the guilt that on us lay.
Just as a father loves his child,
So God loves those who fear his
name.
For he remembers we are dust,
And well he knows our feeble
frame.

Each human life is like the grass,
And like a meadow flower it grows.
Its place will never be recalled
Once over it the tempest blows.
But everlasting is God's love
For those who fear him, and their
seed—
For those who keep his covenant,
And carefully his precepts heed.

God's kingly rule is over all;
In heaven he has set his throne.
O you his angels, praise the LORD,
Strong ones by whom his will is
done.
O praise the LORD, you heavenly
hosts,

His servants who perform his word.
Praise God, his works throughout
his realm,
And you, my soul, O praise the
LORD!

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of
Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with
laughter, and our tongue with shouts
of joy;**

then they said among the nations, "The
Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like
streams in the Negeb!

**Those who sow in tears shall reap with
shouts of joy!**

He who goes out weeping, bearing the
seed for sowing, shall come home with
shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.**

Amen

God's Word

First Reading: Gen 3:1-13, p.2

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Matt 25:14-30, p.830

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

*Sermon: The Kingdom Parables of Jesus:
The Parable of the Talents (David Thornhill-Smith)*

O Church Arise

O Church, arise,
and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say
that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war,
to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword
that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have
the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross,
where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes
lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come
put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run
with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls
and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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. 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 Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, and that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

**We humbly beg you, heavenly Father,
to keep us as faithful members of your church,
to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity,
that we may serve through those good works
which you have prepared for us to do
through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory, Amen.**

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Cor 9:7)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE WEEK		
Tues 27th Sept	Church Meeting	All Welcome
Thurs 29th Sept	Prayer Meeting	On Zoom
Sun 2nd Oct	Morning Worship	New Series: Colossians

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)