



NOVEMBER 18-19 2023

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

We want to be known, O God, as people who risk ourselves in service. We want to be known as people who use our gifts wisely and well. But most of all we pray that you would fill us with trust and not fear. Lord help us risk it all on your love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”*
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- ❖ *But how far should we push this? Is there ever a point when our risk-taking can become foolish? And, if so, how do we recognize that point? Quite simply, I think, the key lies in faithful risk-taking. It is not risk-taking to which God responds. It is faith. God responds to faith that manifests itself in taking risks and stepping out by trusting Him. If our risk-taking is faith-full, it cannot be foolish—no matter how incredible the risk or unlikely the outcome.*
- Guy Richard (Professor of Systematic Theology)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Amazing grace,

All: Lifting us from despair,

One: Comforting us in sorrow,

All: Surprising us in our doubt.

One: Amazing grace:

All: Sounding trumpets in the dark,

One: Sending a light for our path,

All: Calling our name in a crowd.

One: Amazing grace:

All: Holding us when fear hovers close,

One: Opening windows when doors are shut,

All: Promising joy in serving others.

One: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.

PRAISE SONG: *Gathering Hymn (music at end of bulletin)*

THE CONFESSION:

All: Awesome and disturbing God, you breathed life into us, and each day you fill us with the power of your Spirit. We are given your courage and yet act with caution and timidity. We know your intentions for justice, yet too often keep silent or yield to the complexity of issues and do nothing. We are over-whelmed with your love, yet are hesitant to mention your name to another. We have been forgiven much, yet we harbor old resentments, hold on to past hurts and turn away from reconciliation.

Wondrous God, restore us to clear thinking, give us compassionate hearts, and lead us to bold actions. Let your forgiving love cleanse fear and timidity from us. Set us on your path with your Spirit in our minds. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *The God of Second Chances (verses 1, 3, 4)
(music at end of bulletin)*

THE READING: **Matthew 25:14-30**

This is the second of three stories told by Jesus about accountability and expectation in this part of Matthew's story about Jesus' life. The first one was read last week. This one deals with the use of what has been given.

‘For 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.”

MESSAGE: “*Who’s the Boss?*”

- Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: *All I Have is Christ (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and 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.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Pardoned by God's abounding grace, empowered by God's constant love and protected by God's peace, let us go forth to serve God and others, always humbly aware of our own shortcomings, but always encouraged by the faithful and loving presence of God in Christ Jesus, to whom be glory and power, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *Let It Be Said of Us (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.