

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Judges 4:1-7

After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the Lord saw as evil. So the Lord gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-göim. The Israelites cried out to the Lord because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the Lord, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

The Psalm

Psalm 123

I raise my eyes to you—
you who rule heaven.

**Just as the eyes of servants attend to their masters' hand,
just as the eyes of a female servant attend to her mistress' hand—
that's how our eyes attend to the Lord our God
until he has mercy on us.**

Have mercy on us, Lord! Have mercy
because we've had more than enough shame.

**We've had more than enough mockery from the self-confident,
more than enough shame from the proud.**

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers and sisters. You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness. So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

“After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

“Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

“Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

“His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t

spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'”

Next week's readings

Our readings this fall are from the Revised Common Lectionary, Track 1 and we will be using the Common English Bible translations. The readings for next week are:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Numbers last Sunday

8am: 19

10am: 80

Coffee Hour

Our coffee hours are hosted by either St. George's, a specific ministry or by a parishioner. Are you able to host? It's simple and easy to do.

For more information, and to sign up, scan the QR code, or email mofun@stgeorges-maplewood.org



Schedule

1st Sunday: hosted by St. George's and feature a cake to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We will also have fruit available.

2nd Sunday: Parishioner-hosted, or simple coffee hour

3rd Sunday: Ministry-Hosted Coffee Hour

4th Sunday: Parishioner-hosted, or simple coffee hour

5th Sunday: hosted by St. George's

Announcements

Sunday November 19

Crafters Gathering

Wednesday November 29

Rector's Book Group

Sunday December 3

Cocoa and Carols

Wednesday December 6

Justice & Advocacy Ministry Discussion

December 13

Advent Conversation

Sunday December 17

Lessons and Carols

Wednesday December 20

Blue Christmas Service

Calling All Crafters!

The first gathering of the St. George's Crafters is today, Sunday 19th, from 1-4pm in the Mary Lounge. Come for all of the time or for as much as you are able. It is just a casual gathering for fellowship and crochet, knitting, beading -- whatever you enjoy doing. Coffee, tea, and goodies, as well. For more information, contact Susannah Chewning at smchewn@gmail.com

The Lights of Hope Advent collection

Once again, this year we will be offering an opportunity to give to those who are less fortunate. The Lights of Hope collection will begin on Sunday, November 19th. There are three ways you can participate, either through individual gifts to clients of North Porch Women & Infants' Centers and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, West Orange, or our adopt-a-family program. We are also collecting holiday gifts for the children of two Afghan families that have been resettled by a consortium of six Diocese of Newark Episcopal parishes. We will be asking for children's picture books to help everyone with learning English.

Adopt a Family Program:

This year, we are planning to adopt six to eight families and provide holiday gifts for the whole family. Please contact Dominique Vines directly to learn more details of the family gift program.

To participate: Take a tag from the wooden cross to the right of the altar. When the requested gift item has been purchased, tape the gift tag to the item and place it in the collection box located in the sanctuary. Please do not wrap the gift, we need to be able to sort items for each organization. The collection will run through the season of Advent and will conclude on December 18th. If you have questions, find us after service or send an email to mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com, pebigelow@yahoo.com or vines.dominique@gmail.com.

Carols and Cocoa!

Our December First Tuesdays! Gathering will actually be on the first Sunday in December! Gather at St. George's at 4.30 pm on Sunday December 3 and join us for carols and cocoa! More details to follow.

Challenging Ourselves to Seek Justice:

As forecast, the Justice & Advocacy Ministry will provide 2 opportunities for current and prospective members to participate in learning, prayer & discussion, to provoke our imagination of what "seeking justice in all we do" might actually mean. The same program will be offered virtually on Wed., 12/6 at 7:30 pm, and in-person after the 10 am service on 12/10. We'll listen to a talk given to the National Church's conference in Baltimore by Sarah Augustine, a member of the



Tewa people of New Mexico; then we'll reflect on her teaching and discuss what her exhortation might mean for us. Please follow the link or QR code to register and let us know which you'll attend:

https://bit.ly/Dec_Forum

Rector's Monthly Book Group

This fall on the 4th Wednesday of the month, Rev. Grant will lead an online monthly book group, which will run from 7:30pm-8:30pm. Books this fall are discipleship themed and have been selected by Rev. Grant as resources to nurture and grow one's personal discipleship walk with Jesus. No need to sign up, just purchase the book, read ahead of time, and join us for the conversation. The next gathering will be on November 29 and the book for this gathering is *Faith at Home* by Wendy Barrie; it can be purchased through Amazon. The Zoom link will be shared in the Snapshot email.

November Collection for Holy Trinity Food Pantry

For the next several weeks through November 26, we will be collecting for Holy Trinity Food Pantry. The requested items are **toiletries** such as **soap, bodywash, toothpaste** and **shampoo**. We accept non-perishable donations. Drop off donations in the vestibule off the parking lot or in the Narthex food barrel. Questions: contact Lindsay McHugh at mchugh.lindsay@gmail.com.

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Stay Connected with St. George's!

Are you new to the parish? Are you excited to learn about the amazing ministries and activities happening at St. George's? Be sure to sign up for our weekly online newsletter so you don't miss out! To sign up, please email our Parish Administrator, Ruth Deane, at parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org.

St. George's Property issues

Help us to maintain our building! You can now inform us of any property or maintenance issues that need attention by completing an online "Report of Property Issues" found on the Contact Us page of our website (<https://stgeorges-maplewood.org/contact/>) Describe issue as fully as possible. If you would like to include a picture of the problem, please email it to the office.

Stay Connected with the Diocese of Newark!

As a part of the Diocese of Newark, St. George's contributes to and participates in the larger mission of our diocese— *Join us in following Jesus Christ with bold acts of justice, peace, and love.* Sign up to receive The VOICE Online (our diocesan digital newsletter) and check out the amazing things going on in our Diocese!



In Our Prayers this week

Rich; Jerry Hudson & Christine; Richard & Bea Berggren; Roland Spiotta; Clarence Clarke & Andrej; Marlene Eubanks; Charlene Paolillo & family; Marianne Dwyer; James & Mary Ip; Cable Guess & husband Paul; Orlando; Aidan; Laticha; the soul & family of John "Jay" Baker; Jillian Hamer, her father & family; Ann; Jack Hughes; the soul & family of Dona Kemp; the soul & family of Evan Sweeney; Nancy Storrs; Lisa Jubilee & family; Brad Makarowski; Maureen; Doug & Laura Greendyke, and the Roy family; Suzanne & Rev. Bob Morris; the soul & family of Carol Gilligan; Rachel Hatch & family; Mandy Robinson; Tilly-Jo Emerson; Elizabeth, Jon, Nathaniel, Cal, Morgan & Lila Redwine; the soul of Michelle Smalley & for her daughter Katelynn & mother Deborah Tulis; Georgia Mentzer; Kim Smallwood; Florence Randall.

If you wish to request special prayers, please email your request to st-georges-healing@googlegroups.com. Include the name or names (preferably both first & last) and what we should be praying for. NOTE: After one month names are routinely removed from the list unless we receive a request to continue the prayer

Proper 28

Matthew 25:14–30

see page 147



Drawn to the Gospels • 67

Questions

1. What does this parable say about gifts we've been given? What does it mean that we're not all given the same? Is that fair?
2. A talent in biblical times was a measure of money. But in our day it can be a lot of things. Think about the talents you've been given. How are you using them?
3. Take note of the collect read this Sunday: "Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."
4. It calls us to pay attention to scripture, which is the point of this book. And note why we are to do that. It is in order that we might have hope. Is it your experience that the scriptures give us hope?

