

Will those who do good things be saved? Or, will those who are saved...do good things? Dr. Dean Nadasdy says those who love Christ also love showing mercy to others. Hear Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy's message entitled "Loving Mercy" based on Matthew 25:34-40 next Sunday on The Lutheran Hour on 620/am at 7:30 AM (SK) or 940/am at 9:00 AM (SK) or 1250/am at 10:30 AM (MB) or Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 28

Zephaniah 1:7–16

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others

The Day of the Lord is "*near and hastening fast,*" and it will be "*a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation*" (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish "*the men who are complacent*" concerning His Word, "*who fill their master's house with violence and fraud*" (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "*Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them*" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "*good and faithful*" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and "*the master of those servants*" settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "*God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also "*put on the breastplate of faith and love*" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

November 26: Last Sunday in the Church Year

Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 95:1-7a (v.7a);

1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28 A)

November 19, 2023

INTROIT

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; Antiphon: Psalm 143:1

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,

for no one living is righteous before you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you;

my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes

and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

Zephaniah 1:7-16 (ESV)

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸ And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹ On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰ "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³ Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, "a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the

day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV)

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And 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.' ²¹ 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.' ²² 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.' ²³ 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.' ²⁴ 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, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid

your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ 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? ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

A FRIEND INVITED ME - 86%

ORGANIZED VISITATION - 6%

PASTOR INVITE - 6%

ADVERTISING - 2%

PEOPLE BRING PEOPLE!