



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE PENTECOST – PROPER 20

Opening Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #390 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant, Copyright © 1953, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The **PEOPLE** then say

***Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** [The people may be seated for the readings]

### **A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah (8:18 - 9:1),**

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

*Reader*            *The Word of the Lord*  
*People*            *Thanks be to God*

**Psalm 79:1-9**

1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple; \*  
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, \*  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.

3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, \*  
and there was no one to bury them.

4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, \*  
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

5 How long will you be angry, O Lord? \*  
will your fury blaze like fire for ever?

6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you \*  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob \*  
and made his dwelling a ruin.

8 Remember not our past sins;  
let your compassion be swift to meet us; \*  
for we have been brought very low.

9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; \*  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

## A Reading from the First Letter to Timothy (2:1 – 7),

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord

*People*            *Thanks be to God*

## Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 # Hymnal #488 - Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

**[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]**

*Priest*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (16:1 - 13)  
*People*           ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*Reader*           The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*           ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

**Sermon by the Right Reverend Dr. Marty Stebbins, Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Montana**

**The Nicene Creed** (from *Enriching Our Worship*) [Please stand, as you are able]

*We believe in one God,*

*the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,*

*the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through Him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation*

*He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.*

*For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;*

*He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,*

*who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## **The Prayers of the People – Form II [The people may be seated]**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Marty Stebbins; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

I ask your prayers for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Patrick's, Big Fork and the Rev. Donnel O'Flynn, Rector. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In the Saint Stephen's community, we pray for Shelly Nauman.

Within our church family, we pray for Amanda and family, Danielle, Jamie and family, Karly, Katie, Laura, Lyndsee and family, and Libby. We also pray for our new hosts and partners – the people of Bethlehem Lutheran, as well as the people of St. John's United.

*Prayer In Times of Conflict*

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 824)

*For Prisons and Correctional Institutions*

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. **Amen.** (*Book of Common Prayer* pg. 826)

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

***Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
***Amen.***

### **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people* **[Please stand, as you are able]**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People***      ***And also with you.***

### **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

## Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #475 - God himself is with us (verses 1-2)*

1 God him-self is with us; let us all a - dore him,  
 2 Glad - ly, Lord, we of - fer thine to be for ev - er,  
 and with awe ap - pear be - fore him. God is here with -  
 soul and life and each en - deav - or. Help us to sur -  
 in us; souls in si - lence fear him, hum - bly, fer - vent -  
 rend - er earth's de - ceit - ful trea - sures, pride of life, and  
 ly draw near him. Now his own who have known  
 sin - ful plea - sures: thou a - lone shalt be known  
 God, in wor - ship low - ly, yield their spi - rits whol - ly.  
 Lord of all our be - ing, life's true way de - cree - ing.

Words: Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.;  
 st. 3, tr. Henry Sloane Coffin (1877-1954)  
 Music: Tysh, from *Psalm und Choralbuch*, 1719

668. 668. 666

## Anthem

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## HOLY COMMUNION - Eucharistic Prayer A [Please stand, as you are able]

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** *We lift them to the Lord.*

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Officiant and People*

*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.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

### The Breaking of the Bread

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Celebrant then says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### *All are welcome at the Lord's Table.*

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer [People may stand or kneel]**

*Almighty and everliving God,*

*we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood*

*of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;*

*and for assuring us in these holy mysteries*

*that we are living members of the Body of your Son,*

*and heirs of your eternal kingdom.*

*And now, Father, send us out*

*to do the work you have given us to do,*

*to love and serve you*

*as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.*

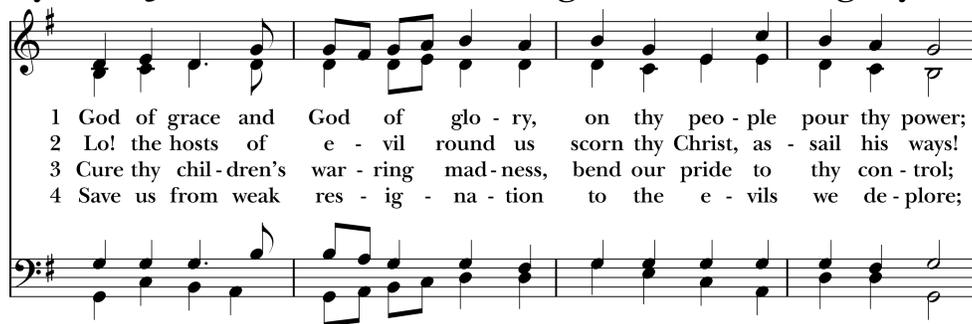
*To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

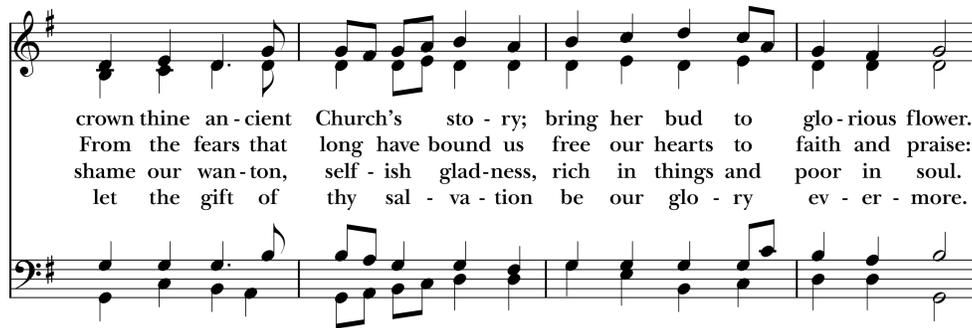
**Blessing**

**Announcements**

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #594 - God of grace and God of glory*



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.  
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:  
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.



Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this  
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

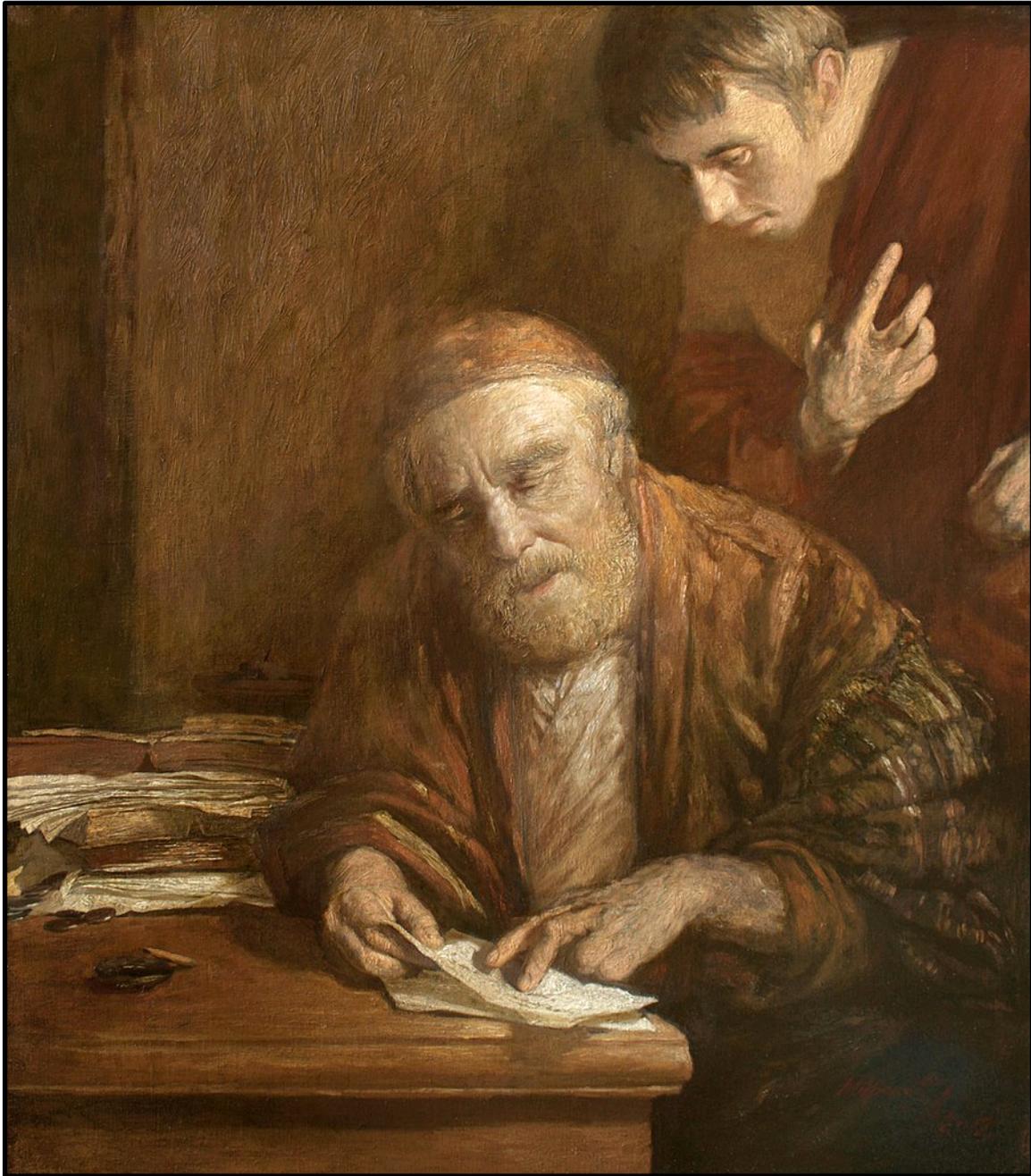


hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!  
 Thanks be to God.



*“Parable of the Unjust Steward” by Andrei Mironov, 2012*



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