

Sermon followed by Service

November 5, 2023

Matthew 25:14-

Have you checked your returns lately? At the grocery store, a dollar doesn't buy what it used to, does it? At home, when I look at the statements for our retirement funds, not the return I was hoping for, is it? Here in church? It could be easy to say what? "Not the returns we're looking for, is it?" And here in our hearts, we might feel anxious, stressed, bored, down and depressed, and we might think: "Not the return I'm looking for." So what do people do? Some change grocery stores; some pull money from the stock market; some change churches; some drop out from life - all because they're checking their returns and checking what they're getting. Today, Jesus shows us someone else who is checking his returns. And what is he finding? Not just with them, but with me, with you? What kind of returns is God finding in me, in you?

You heard the parable. "A business owner is heading out of town. He calls his workers together, divides his business, and entrusts it to his workers. To one he give 5 parts, another 2 parts, and to another 1 part, each according to his ability. Then he heads off on his journey."

Imagine you're that man. Going off on a business trip, you'll be gone for a long, long time. What do you do with your business? You have assets that need to be taken care of. You have people who work for you; they need to be taken care of. What do you do?

Before you answer that, let me complicate things a bit. Let me tell you a bit about your workers - you hired these workers because they couldn't take care of themselves. They had messed up their lives so bad that if you hadn't taken them on they would be as good as dead. If you lay them off, they'll be lost. So what do you do with them? And your assets - when you put your assets to work, they have the power to change lives; they have the power to save lives. But if you take your assets with you, they won't do you or anybody else any good.

So what do you do? How about this for a plan? Hire a whipping manager and put him in charge of your workers. Hire some proven experts and put them in charge of your assets. Makes sense, doesn't it? But that's not what the man in the parable did, is it? He didn't put a whipping boss in charge of his workers; he made his workers responsible. He didn't hire proven experts to take care of his assets. He made his workers, those workers who had bungled up their own lives, he put them in charge of his assets.

What do you think of that plan? Those workers had a history of failure ... it's a plan for disaster. That's one way to look at it; another way to look at it is love. In love, he didn't put a whipping boss over his workers; he trusted them with freedom and responsibility. In love, he didn't judge his workers unfit to take care of his riches. Even though they had failed him before, in love he entrusted his assets to them - "I trust you. With what I'm giving you, you have what it takes to make good things

happen. Let's make good things happen!" What do you think of that plan?

What do you think of the parable? Parables are teaching stories, stories with a meaning; and Bible parables are teaching stories with a heavenly meaning. So let's connect some dots. The man in the parable is Jesus. He's about to return to heaven. And his business, his church, would be left here on earth. How about the workers in the parable? That's us. And the talents are the riches of God. Jesus took his assets as God over the world ... he took his assets as Head of the Church, and he entrusted them to us as his workers.

Think of what that means. Think of who we were. Jesus didn't take us on as his workers because of our good resume or our good potential. We had gone off from God to do our own things, and on our own we were failures, lost and as good as dead. We had taken God's blessings, misused them and abused them. We had a history of fighting against God. And yet Jesus took us as his own. With his life and death, lived for God and died on the cross, Jesus made us right with God. And right with God, Jesus has entrusted the riches of God to our care.

When I hear riches, I think money, but Jesus has given us so much better than just money. Jesus has entrusted God's life to us - we're alive with God. He's entrusted God's name to us - we're the children of God. Jesus has entrusted his own body and blood to us - we're forgiven with God. He's entrusted his Word to us - we get to say "You're forgiven"; we get to say: "God loves you!" He's entrusted his Spirit to us - each one of you has

the Holy Spirit working his power in you in some special way. You may have a Spirit-special love, or a Spirit-special wisdom or a Spirit-special ability to share God's love - in some way you have been entrusted with gifts and powers from the Holy Spirit.

And it doesn't stop there. Why do we have jobs, businesses, family, friends? God has entrusted them into your care. Why do we have money and stuff? God has entrusted his blessings into our care - to manage for him. Whatever we have ... everything we have belongs to God and he's entrusted it into our care. The riches of the world, the riches of his church, God has entrusted them all into our care, your care. Amazing, isn't it?

Can you imagine what the devil thinks of that plan? He's hoping, working to make Jesus regret what he's given us. He's working to make Jesus' plan a disaster for the church. And time and again, we make the devil smile. But what does Jesus still do? In love, he still trusts us with his riches. Instead of managing our every move, he trusts us with freedom and responsibility. Instead of putting us on the sidelines and treating us like failures, he puts us in charge of his riches - "I trust you. With what I'm giving you, you have what it takes to make good things happen; you can do it."

So what do we do? What do you do with the riches, the assets, the talents Jesus entrusts to you? Our parable goes on: **"the man who had received the 5 talents went at once and put his money to work and gained 5 more. So also, the one with the 2 talents gained 2 more."** Did you notice those words: "at once"? They got to work "at once." They were eager to get to

work for their master. They didn't say: "I don't have time." They didn't say: "Later, when I'm not so busy with my stuff." They didn't say: "I've already done my part." And they didn't settle for doing half a job - the servant with 5 talents didn't work until he had 7 and then sit back; the servant with 2 talents didn't work until he had 3 and then say, "good enough." They got to work and they worked until the master returned.

And when the master returned, what did he do? He settled accounts. The 5 talent servant had used his talents and gained 5 more. The 2 talent servant had used his talents had gained 2 more. And to both of them, what did the master say: "**Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!**" The master didn't judge the 5 talent servant as better than the 2 talent servant. He didn't have more praise for the 5 talent servant and less praise for the 2 talent servant. Why? Because each had been faithful with what God had given them.

But what about that third servant? The servant with just the one talent? It wasn't "just" one talent, was it? That talent was a huge sum of money; it wasn't small or insignificant or a gift that didn't really matter. With that one talent that third servant could have done just as well and pleased his master just as much as the servants who had more.

But he didn't. Not because he wasn't able, but because he had a bad attitude. Listen what he said; "**Master, I knew that you are a hard man So I was afraid and went out and hid**

your talent in the ground.” Was he really afraid of his master? Then he would have put the money in the bank to get some interest. That third servant didn't do anything with his talent because he was wicked and lazy. He didn't care what his master had done for him; he didn't care about why he had a talent; he didn't care about what his master could do for him. When it was time to work, he just wanted to grumble and complain that his master expected too much from him. Sad, isn't it?

So, have you checked your returns lately? Not just what you're getting, but what you're giving and doing with God? Don't check your returns by what others are doing. They don't have what God has given you. Instead, check your returns by the gifts God is giving you. It doesn't matter how many talents, how much riches, how many assets you have. They are all valuable gifts from God - for a purpose, God's purpose. You may be a 5 talent, 2 talent, or 1 talent servant - that doesn't matter. Live as God's 100% servant - 100% loved and forgiven, 100% faithful, and 100% praised by God - **“Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness!”** Amen.

November 4 & 5, 2023

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY... we are surrounded by a people focused on living the life of the world and put out by the thought of living for God. (Some days more, some days less, we have some of that world in ourselves, don't we?)

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... Jesus shows us how good our God is to us - instead of leaving us to live the empty life of the world, he gives us purpose, includes us with him, and then rewards us for listening and following - God is so good to us!

OPENING HYMN

"For All the Saints"

Hymn 880

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
and win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins,
asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

I deserve to be cast away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy,
God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the
word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the
name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 1:10–18

Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
“The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?” says the LORD.
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;

I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.
Your hands are full of blood!
Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.
“Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the LORD.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 50A



1 God the LORD, the King Al - might - y, calls the earth from
 2 "Hear me tes - ti - fy a - gainst you: lis - ten, Is - rael,
 3 God who owns the whole cre - a - tion needs no gift, no
 4 Lies in - crease and e - vil pros - pers; God is si - lent



east to west: shin - ing out from Zi - on's splen - dor,
 as I speak. I do not re - quire your of - f'rings,
 food, no house; bring to him your heart's thanks - giv - ing,
 while men say, "He has gone, let us for - get him,"



cit - y love - li - est and best, comes our God! He breaks the
 sac - ri - fice I do not seek. Moun - tain birds and mead - ow
 God Most High will hear your vows. Trust him in the day of
 think - ing he is false as they. But his word will judge or



si - lence, robed in burn - ing maj - es - ty: "Gath - er all my
 crea - tures, cat - tle on a thou - sand hills, all the beasts are
 trou - ble, call to him who will re - deem; he will be your
 save us: let us come be - fore his throne, giv - ing thanks, re -



cov - 'nant peo - ple, bound by sac - ri - fice to me."
 my pos - ses - sion, mov - ing as their mak - er wills."
 strong de - liv - 'rer, his re - nown your dai - ly theme.
 ceiv - ing mer - cy, God's sal - va - tion now made known.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14–30

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made”

Hymn 751

O God, your hand the heavens made and all that they contain;
the world appeared at your command, and in it now you reign.
The restless sea, the land, the sky your handiwork declare;
the touch of your creative pow’r is present ev’rywhere.

To us are given gifts divine, all talents you have sent;
inspire us now to use them well your kingdom to extend.
We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;
we gratefully acknowledge, Lord, all things are yours alone.

Deliver us from selfish aims, true stewards we would be;
endow us with a deep desire to live unselfishly.
A full accounting we must give and see you face to face;
let us approach your throne with joy, supported by your grace.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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 and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

PRAYER

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.
Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rose from the dead in glorious triumph to bring forgiveness to the world and everlasting life to all who believe.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Your Word brought all things into being, and our Word will call all things to an end. We thank you, heavenly Father, that in your mercy you sent your Son to redeem us.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

We remember, O Lord, with thanksgiving the saving work of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Renew us that we may joyfully serve you in your kingdom of grace and in your kingdom of glory forever.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei* (Sung)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CHOIR)

"Well Done"

The Afters

*What will it be like when my pain is gone
And all the worries of this world just fade away?
What will it be like when You call my name
And that moment when I see You face to face?*

I'm waiting my whole life to hear You say

*Well done, well done My good and faithful one
Welcome to the place where you belong Well done, well done
My beloved child You have run the race and now you're home
Welcome to the place where you belong*

*What will it be like when tears are washed away
And every broken thing will finally be made whole?
What will it be like when I come into Your glory
Standing in the presence of a love so beautiful?*

I'm waiting my whole life for that day I will live my life to hear You say

*Well done, well done My good and faithful one
Welcome to the place where you belong Well done, well done
My beloved child You have run the race and now you're home
Welcome to the place where you belong*

*What will it be like when I hear that sound? All of heaven's angels crying out
Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord
Singing holy, holy, holy are You, Lord Waiting my whole life for that day
Until then, I'll live to hear You say*

*Well done, well done My good and faithful one
Welcome to the place where you belong Well done, well done
My beloved child You have run the race and now you're home
Welcome to the place where you belong*

Well done

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Church, Arise”

Hymn 870

O Church, arise and put your armor 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 valor.

When faced with trials on ev'ry 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 vict'ry march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry 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.

OFFERING

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St. John Kitchen Dedication

Sunday, November 19

The long awaited day is coming! Our Kitchen Renovation project is coming to completion. In celebration of this blessing, we will be having an early THANKSGIVING celebration day, a special day to give thanks not just for our new kitchen, but also to recognize the many other blessings we have in our St John ministry! (We will also be gathering for our Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:30.)

After church on Sunday, November 19, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall during our normal Family Bible Hour and hear from our fellow ministry partners on the blessings we want to acknowledge we have here at St. John. We will get updates on projects and have the opportunity to ask questions as usual, but we will be focused on communicating the many good things we have going on at St John and thank God for the blessings He continues to provide us.

After we share the stories of thanksgiving we see around our shared ministry, we will feast! We get to have a great celebration meal as we “break in” our fabulous new kitchen. We pray we will have many more opportunities to use our kitchen as we gather together and reach out as “A Family Connecting in Christ.”

Please join us for turkey, mashed potatoes, and your surprise sides and desserts.

Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Please RSVP for our Kitchen Dedication Dinner at

<https://stjohnslib.com/RSVP>, or by calling the office - 847-362-4424

Please join us for this early THANKSGIVING event!

And help us celebrate the blessings we have in our St John ministry!