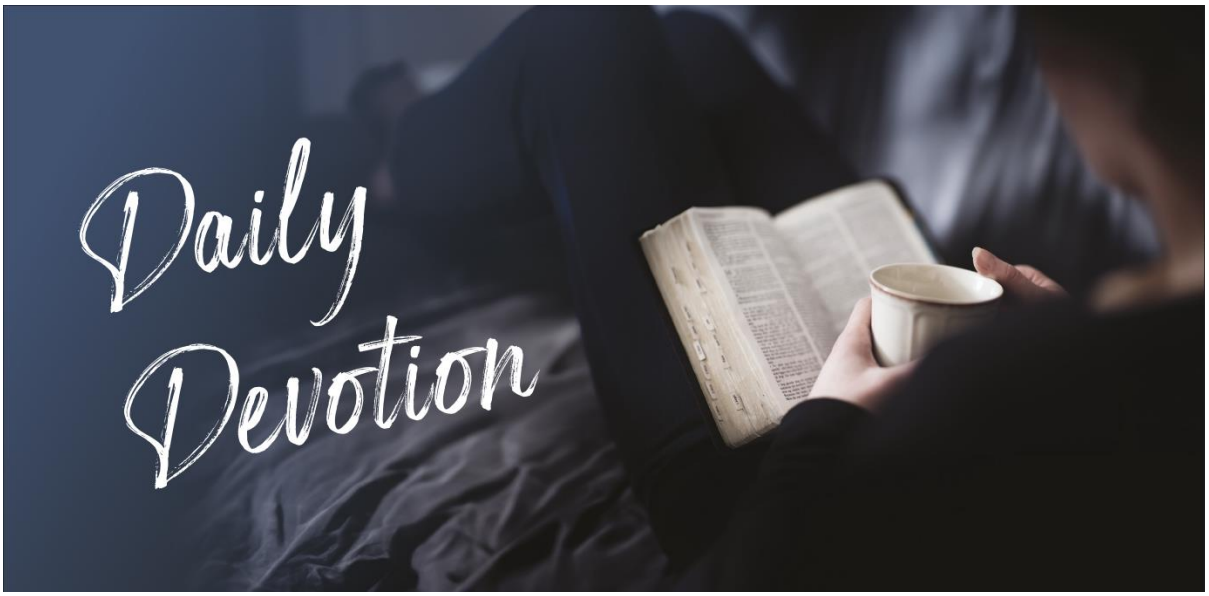


Sunday 15 November 2026 to
Sunday 22 November 2026

LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA

Sunday 15 November 2026

Countless ways to serve

by Janette Lange

… to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability … (Matthew 25:15).

Read Matthew 25:14–30

I know I must be closer to the end of my life than the beginning because I now receive a lot more emails about retirement planning! I'm not (quite) at retirement age yet, but I've already been thinking about what that might look like, planning how I'll spend my time, getting advice, assessing my resources (financial, health, interests, etc.) and deciding the best way to deploy them.

I wonder whether I am as intentional about my relationship with God. Am I as prepared for this season of my faith journey as I am for retirement? How can I use the time I have left on earth to best serve God and those around me? These are important questions for each of us.

Like the servants in today's reading, God has entrusted us with so many gifts and resources. Our time and energy, our money and possessions, our abilities and spiritual gifts, our relationships, even our very lives are all gifts from God for service in his kingdom. We don't all receive the same skills and opportunities. But we are all called to faithfully serve with what God has entrusted to us and wherever God has placed us.

Those resources may vary at different stages of our life. Being employed or being a parent may be our vocation at this point. Earlier in life, we may have more energy. Later in life, we might have more time. Our health might be less robust, but we have wisdom and life experience instead. Perhaps we can be actively involved in ministry and our congregations. Or we can support God's mission with prayer and finances. Perhaps God is calling us into a completely new adventure. There are countless ways in which we can serve and share the love of God!

Over the next few weeks, I encourage you to reflect upon all the skills, interests, gifts and resources with which God has blessed you. Then prayerfully consider how he is calling you to serve in this season of your life. Sometimes, it might even feel a bit scary or more than we can handle. But know that the One who equips us for service will sustain us and give us the strength we need.

Giver of all good things, thank you for the wealth of gifts and resources you have entrusted to me. Open my eyes to how you are calling me to serve you and those around me. Guide me and sustain me as I step out in faith with you. Amen

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Janette is a member of Zion Glynde congregation, a vibrant multicultural faith community in suburban Adelaide. She works as an archivist and translator of German historical documents. In her free time, Janette enjoys reading, solving cryptic crosswords, learning languages, travelling, researching family history and relaxing in her garden. Thanks to her husband's influence, she now enjoys watching Formula 1 and golf.

Monday 16 November 2026

Living in the End Times

by Janette Lange

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind (Isaiah 65:17).

Read Isaiah 65:17–25

As the church year draws to a close, it reminds us that we are living in the End Times. This latter stage of God's salvation plan was ushered in with the birth of Christ. So, the End Times have been going on for a while now! Of course, none of us knows the day that Christ will return. It might be thousands of years away. It might be next week.

It certainly feels like we are living in the End Times when we look at the world around us. Wars and conflict with no end in sight. Rioting, discord and instability. Volatile and self-serving leaders. Extremism, polarisation and violence. Inequity of wealth and opportunity. The rise of artificial intelligence. It can be scary and unsettling. It can feel chaotic and out of control. And all of this on top of the usual share of grief, sadness and stress that make up our human lives.

So, today's reading brings us real comfort and hope. It assures us that God is still with us and still in control. His salvation plan is well underway. Christ has already won the battle over sin, evil and death for us.

And the day will come when God transforms everything and makes it new. There will be no more sadness, no more death, no more conflict. No more sin. How we long for that! Christ has not abandoned us. He has gone to prepare a place for us. And he will come back for us and take us to live with him forever.

So, what are we to do as people in the End Times? Let's live as though we are in our last days, conscious that we are *in* the world, but not *of* it. We are travellers on our way home to our Lord and Saviour.

Let's keep our eyes focused on God, trusting him and his promises. The world may seem in chaos. But we know that our God has everything under control.

Let's live in expectant hope, looking forward to eternity with our Lord.

And let's share our reason for hope with the world. Real hope. People desperately need to know the Saviour and his transforming love.

Almighty God, you have won the battle over sin, evil and death for us. You have everything under control. Help us to trust you and your promises. We long for the day you will make all things new. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, as we look forward to spending eternity with you. Amen.

Tuesday 17 November 2026

How to spot a scam

by Janette Lange

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive … (Matthew 24:24).

Read Matthew 24:15–28

Some scams are easy to spot. Others are less so. They are more sophisticated and often bear the hallmarks of what we look for in an authentic item. They have the ring of truth. With the advent of AI-generated material, it can be even more difficult to tell what is real. Even if you are discerning. Even if you're looking for it.

Jesus reminds us that there will be those who pretend to be him, offer salvation and be the answer. They may perform great signs and wonders. They may be engaging and convincing. But they are liars. They are only seeking glory and power for themselves.

Ultimately, false messiahs can only ever offer false hope. They are a type of spiritual scam. They suggest that someone or something other than Christ can save us.

So, what can we do? Jesus tells us that we will encounter such spiritual scams (verses 24 and 25), so we need to be alert and discerning. The best way to identify scams is to become well acquainted with the genuine article.

Knowing Jesus is the key. That's why it's important to regularly read God's word and spend time with him in prayer. There we are reminded of his promises and his faithfulness to us. We learn to recognise his voice better. We see the hallmarks of our Saviour: his sacrificial love, his forgiveness and mercy, his humility and servant heart, and his victory over sin, death and evil. We come to know Jesus more deeply: as our friend, brother and Saviour, the One who has restored our relationship with God. Thankfully, he doesn't leave us to our own devices. He has given us his Holy Spirit to guide us and help us to discern what is true.

Know Jesus. Know his promises. Know what he has done. For you. He's the real deal!

Lord and Saviour, draw us ever closer to you, so we may come to know and love you more fully. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us and give us wisdom to discern what is true, so that we are not led astray. Help us to remain faithful to you, our only source of hope. Amen.

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Keeping us in the truth

by Janette Lange

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth (1 John 2:20).

Read 1 John 2:18–23

I'm not a fan of the 'lane-keeping assist' feature in cars, the safety feature that nudges you back into line. I figure I can see the lanes and (in my opinion at least) know how to drive. (With that short introduction, I have probably told you way too much about myself!)

In today's reading, John reminds us that we have been given a spiritual lane-keeping assist – the Holy Spirit. Only, he is much more powerful than any car safety feature! The Spirit helps keep us on track and in the truth, leading us to Christ, again and again.

That's especially important when we're confronted with those whom John calls 'antichrists' – that's anyone who denies that Jesus is Lord or diminishes his nature or saving work. It's easy to tell that atheists fall into this camp. But it's much harder to spot false teaching in the church when it seems to veer only a bit from Christian truth. That's where the Holy Spirit plays a powerful role.

At the time that John was writing, false teachers were denying that Christ was both fully human and fully divine. But what might we encounter today? Perhaps the claim that Christ did not actually physically rise from the dead. Or the belief that we are the ones who make a conscious, personal choice to accept and follow Christ to be saved. Or the conviction that God has saved us, but we still need to act in a God-pleasing way to keep his favour.

Whenever we want to make ourselves the gods of our lives, or we are tempted to rationalise Christ to fit our own human understanding, the Holy Spirit, like a lane-keeping assist, nudges us back to the right path. Through God's word, he reminds us that we cannot add to our salvation because it was won by Christ alone. He brings us the sweet news that this is freely given to us. The Spirit teaches us that Christ is true God and true man, and his physical resurrection assures us that we too will be raised to eternal life.

Thanks be to God that we can rely on the Holy Spirit to keep us in the truth!

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Holy Spirit, who reveals what is true and nudges us back on track when we stray beyond the lines. Help us to recognise and turn from any teaching that diminishes our Lord Jesus Christ or his saving work. Guard our hearts and keep us in your truth. Amen.

Thursday 19 November 2026

Christ 1, World 0

by Janette Lange

… the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4b).

Read 1 John 4:1–6

We can become disheartened when we look at the state of the world today. There is so much that is obviously wrong. Evil seems to proliferate.

The world is so effective at communicating messages of false hope. The internet and social media provide ready platforms to influence us and sell to us. It's easy to be convinced to consume, create, curate, commodify and contour ourselves in pursuit of happiness, fulfilment, love and 'likes'.

All of this might seem insurmountable. How are we to face these times? Rather than dwelling on the state of the world, John reminds us of where our focus should be: on the source of our hope. He points us to the simple but profound truth that 'Jesus Christ has come in the flesh' (verse 2). The Son of God took on human form and broke into our world's time-space continuum to lay down his life for us. God has not left us to our own devices. He has intervened for our sake. And then on the cross, Christ defeated death, sin and evil. For us. For all time.

As children of God, we have our victorious Saviour living in us. Christ has demonstrated on the cross that he is greater than the one in the world (the devil) or anything else the world can throw at us. We can face anything now because we share in our Saviour's victory.

With Christ in us, we see things anew. We can see the world's hollow promises and false allure for what they are – lies. And we find our real worth and identity in being God's redeemed children.

Ultimately, the answer to the world's unsolvable problems is: Jesus Christ, always. There is no substitute.

Christ asks us to trust him. To trust him with the future of the world. To trust him with the future of his church. To trust him with our loved ones. To trust him with our life. He does not disappoint.

Victorious Saviour, when we are afraid or become disheartened, remind us that you have already won the battle. May the fact that you live in us give us confidence and hope each day. Help us always to put our trust in you. Amen.

Friday 20 November 2026

Running the marathon of life

by Janette Lange

… build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God (Jude 20,21a).

Read Jude 17–25

Life can seem like a marathon. Some days, the running is easy. Other times, it feels like a slog. Aches and pains creep in. How far away that finish line looks!

Our faith journey can feel a bit like that too. At times, we feel confident in the Lord, assured of our salvation. At other times, doubts creep in. The storms of life buffet us. People disappoint us. The world distracts us. Our sin weighs us down.

How are we to carry on? God's word gives us good advice: '… build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life' (verses 20–22).

No one expects to run a marathon without training. Runners build up to a race. They exercise to increase strength and stamina. For energy, they eat the right things. They stay hydrated.

Likewise, we also need to be built up. When we feed on God's word, drink his Living Water and receive his body and blood in communion, our relationship with God deepens and helps us be 'marathon fit'. We exercise and strengthen our 'faith muscles' through worship and obedience, through learning and serving, and through prayer and Christian fellowship.

Prayer is vital in our relationship with God. What a privilege it is to bring everything on our hearts directly to him and spend time listening to him. Here, God shapes us to be more like him and empowers us for this journey. He keeps us spiritually limber, coaches us and gives us the spiritual stamina we need.

The good news is that we're not expected to do this in our own power. God keeps us running. He helps us believe and hold on to his promises. He sustains and re-energises us through his word and church, to keep us from stumbling or quitting the race. Even in the dark times, even when we feel we can't go on, he is there with us, faithfully urging us home.

Home. Home with our Saviour forever! That's where we are heading. So, let us run on in expectant hope, until we see him face to face.

Loving God, strengthen me and equip me for the marathon of life. Help me to run with determination, keeping my eyes on you and holding tightly to your promises. Keep me from stumbling and bring me home to you. Amen.

Saturday 21 November 2026

So many reasons for joy and thanksgiving!

by Janette Lange

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation (Psalm 95:1).

Read Psalm 95:1–7

Have you ever received really good news? Or been delighted with the outcome of a situation? It might have been securing your first house. Or the birth of a child. Perhaps getting the job you really wanted. Or it might have been as simple as your team winning. Especially if it's been a long time coming.

How did you react? Were you filled with happiness? Did you cheer out loud? Did you do a little happy dance? Jump for joy?

I'm reminded of all these things when I read this psalm's opening verses. There's singing for joy and shouting aloud. There's thanksgiving, music and song. It sounds pretty loud! But a good type of loud. It's active and joy-filled. A real celebration.

Now, I'm not suggesting that we literally have to be loud and dance around in our worship services. I'm thinking more of the attitude of our hearts, the way we think about our God and the way we respond to him. Shouldn't joy and thanksgiving underpin the way we live our lives for him?

After all, we have so many reasons for joy and thanksgiving. Even more compelling reasons than those I mentioned above. For starters, we're on personal terms with the One who created this whole world and everything in it. He knows each of us by name. And he asks us to call him Father. Try thinking about that for a bit. It is simply amazing!

We need not fear because he holds everything in his hands and has everything under control. He is the Rock of our salvation: our unshakeable refuge for now and all eternity. Our Shepherd King has willingly laid down his life to save us and bring us into the family of God, where he lovingly tends to all our needs. And all of this is a free, undeserved gift.

We have worth, meaning, life, a future – all because of him. No one compares to our all-powerful, all-knowing, loving and compassionate God. He certainly deserves our worship! And maybe the occasional happy dance too.

Awe-inspiring God, no one can compare to you! Let me worship you with all that I am. You have given me so many reasons for joy and thanksgiving. May my life be filled with leaps of joy and songs of praise for you. Amen.

Sunday 22 November 2026

The King is among us

by Aaron Glover

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35).

Read Matthew 25:31–46

Every Saturday night, I watch movies with my older teenage children. They love to watch murder mysteries. Together, we share who we think the villain is, and there are invariably gasps and laughter as our suspected villains are, one by one, either exonerated … or eliminated.

The best murder mysteries begin as simple stories, but they have twists and turns that surprise you and keep you on the edge of your seat.

I think that's why I love Jesus' parables so much. Like the best mysteries, they seem simple, but surprises come at every turn. And the more we unpack the meaning of each sentence, the more we uncover about God's character, grace, mercy and compassion. Just like today's parable.

Standing in judgement before the King, both the sheep and the goats are surprised to find that they have somehow missed the King living among them ... 'Lord, when did we see you hungry?'

Without knowing it, the sheep have served the King by acting with genuine compassion for those who are vulnerable. The goats' response, however, suggests that they might have acted differently if only they had known the King was there.

My work with Australian Lutheran World Service brings me close to the message in this parable.

I see God's people responding with compassion to those who are vulnerable, giving faithfully and sacrificially without seeking recognition. I also see the face of God in the faces of those we serve alongside around the world.

The needs of our world can feel overwhelming. Yet the surprise in this parable gives me comfort. God is not watching our suffering from the safety of his throne in heaven. He is present here, with all of us, in our joys and suffering.

And the added twist, which continues to humble me, is the invitation we have as God's people to join the King in the mystery of his work by caring for the least of these.

Where might the King be inviting you to participate in his ongoing redemptive work today?

Dear Father, thank you for your work in our world and for being present with us in our suffering. Open my eyes to recognise you in those I meet today, and give me a compassionate heart to respond. Amen.

Aaron Glover lives with his family in Brisbane. He serves as the community engagement manager for Australian Lutheran World Service and worships at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Rochedale. Outside of work, you'll often find Aaron taxiing his four children to all their various sports, dance and music activities.

READINGS Sunday 15th November Pentecost 25

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 The day of the Lord is near (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.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,[a]
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.
17 I will bring distress on mankind,
so that they shall walk like the blind,
because they have sinned against the Lord;
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
shall be able to deliver them
on the day of the wrath of the Lord.
In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Be ready for the Lord's coming (ESV)

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,[a] 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[b] 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.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30 The parable of the talents (NIV)

Jesus said:

"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.’”

Sermon
25th Sunday After Pentecost
Light Lutheran Church – Allen's Creek & Bethel
November 15th, 2026

Matt 25:14-30 – "Called to be 'Safe as Houses' or 'Risky-As'?"

Introduction

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Have you ever played the board game Risk?

It's a game of world domination. You gather armies, occupy territories, build your strength and try to outmanoeuvre everyone else. Winning requires strategy, courage, timing and knowing when to take a calculated risk.

You can't simply sit in your own territory, build a big wall around yourself and hope everyone else goes away. If you spend the entire game defending what you've got, eventually someone else will take it.

Playing it safe might feel comfortable, but it rarely wins the game.

Which brings us to an interesting question this morning: **Are we called to be safe as houses, or risky-as, when it comes to God's kingdom?**

Jesus tells us a story about a master who goes away on a journey. Before leaving, he entrusts his property to three servants. One receives five bags of gold, another two, and the third one.

Now, don't underestimate the amount of money Jesus is talking about. A talent was an enormous sum, commonly reckoned at around fifteen years of wages for an ordinary day labourer. Even the servant who received one talent had received a fortune!

The first two servants get to work. They trade with the money and double what their master entrusted to them. The third servant, however, digs a hole and buries his money.

Why? Because he's afraid.

When the master returns, the first two servants present their profits. The master welcomes both with the same words:

'Well done, good and faithful servant!'

Notice that the servant with two talents receives exactly the same commendation as the servant with five. The master doesn't measure faithfulness by the size of the result. He recognises their willingness to put what he entrusted to them to work.

The third servant has nothing to show. He simply returns what he received.

Now, here's where things get interesting.

What sort of master are we dealing with?

The third servant describes him as a hard man, someone who reaps where he hasn't sown and gathers where he hasn't scattered seed. He's frightened of getting things wrong, losing the money and facing punishment.

Yet the first two servants seem to understand their master very differently. They trust him enough to take action. They see his generosity as an opportunity rather than a threat.

The master has given them considerable wealth, but he hasn't provided a detailed instruction manual. He doesn't tell them precisely where to invest, what to buy or when to sell. He entrusts them with his property and expects them to use their initiative.

Their faithfulness involves making decisions, accepting responsibility and taking risks.

That's rather different from simply sitting around waiting for instructions.

Think again about the game Risk. You need to manage your resources, recognise opportunities and sometimes venture beyond familiar territory. You can't win by simply protecting your existing borders.

The same principle applies to the church, although we're certainly not trying to conquer the world with armies!

We're living through some challenging economic times. Fuel prices have been climbing, mortgage interest rates are putting pressure on households, and the supermarket checkout seems to cost more every week.

Politicians argue about who's responsible, while ordinary Australians wonder how much more they'll have to pay.

The conflict between the United States and Iran has also shaken confidence in global markets. Investors have watched oil prices and financial markets swing as they try to work out what might happen next. Even encouraging news about negotiations can quickly change market sentiment.

People naturally become cautious. They hold onto what they have, avoid unnecessary risks and wait for things to settle down.

There's nothing wrong with being financially responsible. But Jesus is talking about something much bigger than our bank accounts.

He's talking about what happens when God entrusts his kingdom to his people.

The master in this parable represents Christ. The servants represent those who belong to him. The money entrusted to them points us towards the gifts, opportunities and responsibilities God gives his people.

For us, that means the Gospel itself.

God hasn't given us the good news of Jesus Christ so we can bury it somewhere safe, keep it to ourselves and hope nobody disturbs us.

He gives us the Gospel so we can put it to work.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God has given us forgiveness, life and salvation. Through Baptism, his Word and Holy Communion, he continually gives us the gifts of his grace. The Holy Spirit works through these gifts to create and strengthen faith.

We don't earn God's approval by taking risks. We already have his love through Christ. Our response grows out of that gift.

Yet that gift comes with responsibility.

Being a good and faithful servant doesn't simply mean knowing our theology, getting everything doctrinally correct or faithfully turning up to church each Sunday. Those things matter, but they don't exhaust what Jesus means.

Faithfulness means allowing the Gospel to shape what we do with the time, abilities and opportunities God gives us.
It means taking the initiative rather than waiting for someone else to do something.
It means being prepared to step outside our comfortable boundaries and share the love of Christ with others.
It means recognising that the church doesn't exist simply to preserve its buildings, traditions, familiar worship patterns or comfortable little corners of the world.
The church exists to share Christ with the world.
Now, I know that many of us belong to congregations with a long history. We've worked hard, supported our churches, maintained our buildings and kept worship going through good times and difficult times.
There's much to give thanks for but we must never confuse preserving what we have with fulfilling what Christ calls us to do.
We have new families joining us at our preaching points. That's encouraging. What a wonderful opportunity! How do we welcome them? How do we help them grow in faith? How do we make sure they discover not simply a friendly congregation but the saving love of Jesus?
We cannot simply expect them to fit into everything we've always done. We need to be willing to listen, encourage, reach out and sometimes change the way we do things.
Our Australian culture has become increasingly indifferent to the Gospel. Many people simply don't see any need for God, church or Christianity.
Perhaps we sometimes feel that we're too old, too small or too few to make much difference.
Perhaps we think we've done our bit.
Perhaps we worry about what might happen if we try something different and it doesn't work.
But remember the third servant. He buried his talent because he was afraid.
Fear can do the same thing to a congregation. We can become so concerned about protecting what we have that we stop looking for opportunities to share what God has given us.
What does being a good and faithful servant look like while we're waiting?
Some of us are waiting for fuel prices and the cost of living to come down. Some are waiting for wars to end and peace to return. Others are waiting for children and grandchildren to rediscover their Christian faith.
We all have things we wish would change.
But Christ doesn't ask us to put our faith on hold until everything improves.
While we wait, we can pray for those who have wandered from the faith. We can speak about Jesus without embarrassment. We can invite someone to worship. We can welcome a new family. We can encourage a neighbour who struggles. We can share the forgiveness we've received with someone who desperately needs it.
These might seem like small things, but they're opportunities to put the Gospel to work.
We don't know when our Master will return. Jesus makes that clear. But we do know what he has entrusted to us, and we know his promises.

There's one final thing we need to remember.
The master doesn't call his servants to work because he is poor and needs their money. He is already wealthy. He gives them the opportunity to participate in his business.
Likewise, Christ doesn't need us to build his kingdom. He is the King. His victory is already secure through his cross and resurrection.
He invites us to participate in his work of bringing forgiveness, hope and life to the world.
So, brothers and sisters, let's not spend our remaining years simply protecting our little patches of territory. Let's not bury the Gospel under fear, tradition or the excuse that we're getting too old.
Let's be bold. Let's take the opportunities God gives us. Let's welcome those who come among us. Let's reach beyond our familiar boundaries and share the good news of Jesus.
We don't have to double our talents. We don't have to compete with one another or measure our success by numbers. We simply need to trust the Master and faithfully use what he has entrusted to us, because one day our Master will return.
May he find us not hiding our gifts in the ground, but actively living out the Gospel, sharing his love and serving our neighbours.

Safe as houses? Or risky-as for the Gospel?

I reckon we know which one Jesus is calling us to be and we can take that risk with confidence, because the Master who entrusted us with his gifts is the same Master who gave his life for us.
In Christ, we already have the greatest treasure of all.
Amen.