

YEAR B

First Sunday of Advent

Mark 13: 24-37

As we begin a new church year, Jesus reminds us that we are the ones whom God has left in charge; we are the stewards; and we told to stay alert, carrying out the tasks entrusted to us.

Second Sunday of Advent

Mark 1: 1-8

John called on the people to undergo a "change of heart." The faithful steward is one who has undergone such a change.

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's ministry and mission was to point to "one more powerful." How do we, as good stewards, allow our lives to point to this same One?

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

Mary's openness to God's dream for her allows her to respond with: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." As a faithful steward could you say these words?

Christmas

Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-18

God gives us the gift of God's very self. What more can one give to show one's love, to show one's generosity? How do we show our love and generosity, as creatures made in God's likeness?

Christmas 1

Luke 2:22-40 Anna and Simeon

find themselves unexpectedly rewarded and blessed for their years of faithful obedience to God. God's blessings come to us in many unexpected ways!

Christmas 2

John 1: (1-9) 10-18

Jesus, the light of the world, helps us see, even in the darkness. How does my life, as a faithful steward, help this light to shine in our world?

The Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12

Imagine the difficulties these people went through on their journey to Jesus! And yet, even after all the difficulties, they still offer very costly gifts. To what lengths would you go to show how you feel about Jesus?

Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1:4-11

"I fully approve of you," are the words Jesus hears when he is baptized. Do you think that a faithful steward can expect to hear similar words at some point in their journey?

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

John 1:43-51

"Come and see," says Philip to Nathanael. As those who have experienced something Jesus, how do we 'take care' by sharing and spreading the word of our experience?

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:14-20

Do you hear Jesus calling you? Where does he want you to be? What does he want you to do? As one who wants to be a faithful steward, how do you respond?

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:21-28

The actions of Jesus seem to have a remarkable effect, and "his fame began to spread." What kind of effect do our actions, as stewards, have on those around us?

Presentation of the Lord

Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph, obedient to the Law of their faith, bring the child Jesus and present him in the temple. A faithful steward's life is marked by similar acts of obedience.

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus' life is filled by many, who make demands on his time. In spite of these heavy demands, he still makes time to be alone in prayer. As a faithful steward, does my life follow his pattern of prayer and action?

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:40-45

People come to Jesus "from everywhere." Question: Just how far would you be willing to go, in order to be with Jesus?

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 2:1-12

"We've never seen the likes of this!" That's what people said about Jesus' actions. Do you think anyone might say similar words about our actions as faithful stewards?

Last Sunday after Epiphany

The Transfiguration - Mark 9:2-9

Peter "didn't know how else to respond," says today's passage. As a faithful steward, how do you think you might respond?

Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Your heart will always be where your treasure is," says Jesus. Where is the faithful steward's heart going to be found then? Is that where your heart is?

1st Sunday in Lent

Mark 1:9-15

"Change your ways, and put your trust in the good news," Jesus tells us. What things might need to be changed around in your life so that you can become a better steward?

2nd Sunday in Lent

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus reprimands Peter for not thinking in God's terms. A faithful steward spends some of their time trying to discern God's terms, so that they can act accordingly.

3rd Sunday in Lent

John 2:13-22

Jesus displays anger at the way in which people have used his "Father's house" for their own selfish ends. How do we, as faithful stewards, respond, when we perceive injustice in our world?

4th Sunday in Lent

John 3:14-21

Darkness or light - Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out, as we reflect God's dream. How much light do your deeds give off?

5th Sunday of Lent

John 12:20-33

Want God to honour you? "No problem," says Jesus. The faithful steward will be found wherever Jesus is. Care to join him?

Sunday of the Passion, with the Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1-11, Mark 14:1-15:47

Today's gospel gives us a good chunk of THE STORY, which we call our story. How much of THE STORY is familiar to you? A faithful steward has more than a passing knowledge of it.

Easter Day

Mark 16:1-8

"Jesus isn't here," says the messenger to the women." Where is he?" we might join in asking. He's to be found wherever there are faithful stewards.

2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20: 19-31

Thomas wasn't afraid to express his doubts. Does that mean the he was any less of a

follower? I think not. The faithful steward is one who acknowledges and works through their doubt, rather than simply ignore it.

3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24: 36b-48

"You are witnesses to this," says Jesus. A faithful steward is one who has experienced the story of Jesus in their own life, and is able to share it with others.

4th Sunday of Easter

John 10:11-18

Jesus is, as he tells us here, "the good shepherd." His sheep recognize his voice, he goes on to say. Heard Jesus speaking to you lately?

5th Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-8

Jesus is "the true vine." Branches wanting to produce fruit need to stay firmly attached to him. The faithful steward produces much fruit by remaining attached to this vine.

6th Sunday of Easter

John 15:9-17

"This is my command to you: You are to love each other." A faithful steward takes up this challenge on a daily basis, knowing that it's not an easy thing, but that this is what Jesus asks of them.

7th Sunday of Easter

John 17:6-19

"Keep them under your protection," asks Jesus of God. What's he asking? He's asking God to care for us, to practice stewardship, with us. How good are we at taking care?

Day of Pentecost

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

"The spirit of truth will guide you," Jesus tells his followers. As faithful stewards, do we ask for and follow the Spirit's guidance in our day-to-day interactions?

Trinity Sunday

John 3:1-17

"God sent this son into the world not to condemn the world but to rescue the world through him." Are you part of God's rescue team? A faithful steward cooperates with God in bringing God's dream to fruition.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 4:35-41

Would you get into a boat if you expected stormy weather? A faithful steward gets in, trusting that God will keep their journey safe.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 5:21-43

"Have faith," says Jesus to Jairus. To the bleeding woman he says, "you've been healed because of your faith." How do you, as a steward, live a life that shows your faith?

St. Peter and St. Paul

John 21:15-19

Three times Jesus asks Peter to 'take care' of his lambs, his sheep, and Peter feels hurt. How many times do you think Jesus has asked you to 'take care,' to be a faithful steward?

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 6:1-13

"They set out and announced that people should turn their lives around." We can't expect others to turn their lives around, unless ours is too. Have you allowed yours to be?

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 6:14-29

What can a steward learn from this story? Maybe not to act or speak too quickly, but to allow the Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Imagine, being so famous that people are always wanting you! Small wonder Jesus invites his followers to "an isolated place," where they can 'recharge their batteries.' A faithful steward knows to take time and do this.

7th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:1-21

Jesus teaches his disciples an important stewardship lesson - perhaps THE most important of all: God's abundant generosity will be found even when things seem extremely meagre!

8th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:24-35

Jesus talks about satisfying individuals' hunger and thirst. Sorry Coke; sorry McDonald's - a faithful steward knows WHO can truly satisfy!

9th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:35, 41-51

Want to live forever? That's what Jesus offers to those who accept him into their lives. A good steward not only knows this, but is able to share it with other 'hungry' people.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6: 51-58

One translation of the word 'manna' is 'bread.' 'Bread' has been used as a slang word for 'money.' Kind of gives a whole different slant to this passage, doesn't it. Having money won't allow you to live forever. But, having Jesus ("the bread of heaven") will!

11th Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:56-69

"This teaching is too offensive" we read in today's gospel. A faithful steward knows that there will be times when things might seem offensive and still "hangs in there."

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus reminds them that: 'this people honours me with their lips, but their heart stays away from me.' It kind of frightens me that he might be able to say the same about me!

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 7:24-37

One of the things Jesus seems to be able to do, with a variety of people, is to take care of them. A faithful steward is one who also takes care - of others, of self, of the environment, of . . . (you name it).

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38

"If any of you are ashamed of me and my message," says Jesus. The faithful steward shows, in both word and action, pride in being a follower of Jesus.

Holy Cross Day

John 3:13-17

"God loved the people of this world so much that God gave . . ." A faithful steward recognizes how much God continues to lavish gifts on them, and responds with gratitude and generosity.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus reminds his followers that they need to be able to see and accept him in many guises. A faithful steward seeks and serves Jesus in all people.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 9: 38-50

What a heavy burden for a faithful steward to bear! It frightens me to think of how easily I might cause someone to sin.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:2-16

"Let the children come to me . . . after all, God's domain belongs to people like that." A faithful steward aims at and works towards simplicity - in all aspects of their life.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10: 17-31

This passage isn't very 'good news' for those of us who live in this part of the world. Whether we care to accept it or not, we are among the 'wealthy', and do need to be even more vigilant as stewards.

Thanksgiving

Matthew 6:25-33

God provides - not only for small birds, but for us too. Jesus reminds us of God's extravagant bounty towards all creation. A faithful steward knows and practices genuine gratitude.

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:35-45

The faithful steward realizes that their calling in this world is not to be 'number one,' but rather the one who serves others, as Jesus did.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus gives this man his sight. And how does he respond? By following Jesus on the road. A faithful steward is one who sees Jesus and follows down the road he travels.

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 12:28-34

Love God; love your neighbour; love yourself; a good steward knows how to live this out in the midst of all the demands life seems to make.

All Saints

John 11:32-44

Jesus said: "I know that you always answer my prayers." A faithful steward shows this same kind of attitude in how they live out their life.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 12:38-44

Talk about all show and no action! Which would you say shows they are faithful stewards in these two short stories?
Which would you want to be?

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 13:1-8

"Don't let yourself be misled," warns Jesus. The faithful steward knows that God's timetable isn't the same as the one we might like to adopt.

The Reign of Christ

John 18:33-37

"So you are a king!" said Pilate. A faithful steward recognizes that the sovereignty of Jesus goes beyond any earthly boundaries.

YEAR C

Advent 1 - Luke 21:25-36

One of the themes in today's gospel invites us, as we begin a new Church year, to be a people who are different, set apart. How do our words and (more importantly) our actions, set an example to others that we are living a stewardship life?

Advent 2 - Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist calls on the people of his day to prepare themselves. He calls for a change of heart that will help them be better prepared to "see the salvation of God." Do we also need to change our hearts?

Advent 3 - Luke 3:7-18

John used his gift of preaching to exhort people to take care of others, to treat others with the respect and dignity due to all God's creation. How are we using our gifts to do the same?

Advent 4 - Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Mary and Elizabeth, two women who assisted in helping God's dream for the world become reality. What are we doing this day to help the dream come to fruition?

Christmas - Luke 2:1-20, Lk 2:8-20, John 1:1-14

This day God has given us one of the greatest gifts possible. What do we do with this gift the other 364 days of the year?

Christmas 1 - Luke 2:41-52

Imagine the horror and panic in Mary and Joseph as they search for their lost child! As his primary caregivers, they are extremely concerned for his well being. As God's stewards, as God's caregivers for all entrusted to us, how do we express our concern?

Christmas 2 - John 1: (1-9), 10-18

Jesus, the light of the world, helps us see, even in the darkness. How does my life, as a faithful steward, help this light to shine in our world?

The Baptism of the Lord - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

At his baptism, Jesus feels affirmed in the choices he has made to live as God's faithful child. How often do we think about the covenant made at our own baptism to live as God's faithful ones?

2nd Sunday after Epiphany - John 2:1-11

Not only does the water change to wine, but the best wine at the wedding party!

Jesus shows how using our gifts can have results that are greater than we might imagine.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Luke 4:14-21

The role of the steward has not changed over the centuries. Jesus claims that the same task which was Isaiah's is also his. And even to this day the task remains the same: to care for everything and everyone.

4th Sunday after Epiphany - Luke 4:21-30

This passage is disturbing, for Jesus tells us that those on the 'inside' aren't necessarily the ones God chooses to touch in some way. How open are we ('the insiders') to receiving God through someone on 'the outside'?

5th Sunday after Epiphany - Luke 5:1-11

Sometimes, as God's stewards, we might feel that we're being asked to do something which defies logic. And yet when we do it, as Simon and his partners did, we find the results truly astonishing.

6th Sunday after Epiphany - Luke 6:17-26

Being different, letting our words and actions speak about a different kind of lifestyle than the one we see pushed at us on tv and the movies will, in the end, have its rewards.

Last Sunday after Epiphany (The Transfiguration) - Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Peter wants to set up tents, maybe so that he and the others can somehow physically hold on to the 'high' they have just experienced. But being a steward demands that we, as did Jesus, must come down from the mountain top and deal with the everyday challenges of life.

Ash Wednesday - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Living a steward's lifestyle involves walking a fine line between saying and doing things simply to impress others and just doing things simply.

Lent 1 - Luke 4:1-13

Being a steward, following the example of Jesus, calls on us to make decisions and choices that may fly in the face of contemporary culture. This requires a strength and discipline which is available to each of us, if we ask for it.

Lent 2 - Luke 13:31-35

"Can't you see," asks Jesus in today's gospel, "your house is being abandoned?" As stewards, what are we doing to ensure that God's 'house' is not being abandoned?

Lent 3 - Luke 13:1-9

The fig tree which bears no fruit is useless to its owner. However, the gardener sees value in it and wants to give it one more opportunity to produce. Are your gifts lying dormant or are you nurturing them into production?

Lent 4 - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

As faithful, life-long stewards, do we truly rejoice when a sister or brother comes back, or do we feel that they need to pay a price before we really make them feel welcome?

Lent 5 - John 12:1-8

One of the questions today's gospel asks me is: what is my motivation in being a steward? Am I truly interested in taking care of others, or am I just worried about myself?

Sunday of the Passion, with the Liturgy of the Palms - Luke 19:28-40, Lk 22:14-23:56

Today's gospel stories are filled with high's and low's. Jesus, the perfect steward, gives us an example of what it means to really care for something or someone.

Easter Day - John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

The gloom and the sadness of the last few days is replaced today. Even when things seem their darkest, God finds a way to burst through! Even though the clouds may hide it, the sun is always shining!

2nd Sunday of Easter - John 20:19-31

"God sent me," says Jesus. "Now, I'm sending you." As those entrusted to take care of the story of our Faith, we need to find ways of sharing this story with others with whom we come into contact.

3rd Sunday of Easter - John 21:1-19

Over and over again, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Would our actions let Jesus know that we love him? Or, has our love for Jesus been replaced by our love for things of this world?

4th Sunday of Easter - John 10:22-30

Jesus tells the people that those who belong to him recognize his voice. How do we recognize the voice of Jesus today in our own lives, and in the life of our Church?

5th Sunday of Easter - John 13:31-35

"Everyone will recognize you as my followers - if you love each other." How does the world recognize us as the followers of Jesus today? -where we work? -where we play? - wherever we happen to be?

6th Sunday of Easter - John 14:23-29

"The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of everything I told you." Ever feel like your life as a steward has lost its focus? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remember.

7th Sunday of Easter - John 17:20-26

Jesus prays: "Father, I want those you gave into my care to be with me . . . "

Jesus, our steward, has left us an example of what it means to care, to be a steward.

Day of Pentecost - John 14:8-17, (25-27)

"The world isn't able to accept this Spirit," Jesus tells his followers. Why? Because the world is too preoccupied with things that have little or no lasting value. What about us?

1st Sunday after Pentecost - Trinity Sunday - John 16:12-15

Father, Son, and Spirit: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer - each with a different function, yet each tied to the other. Each of us has a different function/gift, yet we too are tied to one another through the Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 7:36-8:3

This lesson in hospitality, in taking care of those who come to us, begs the question: just how hospitable are we when someone shows up at our place of worship?

3rd Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 8:26-39

This story poses many challenging questions to those who would be faithful stewards in our world. Questions like: What 'demons' have we allowed into our lives, demons which take our focus off God's dream for the whole created order?

4th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 9:51-62

The life of a steward isn't for those who want it easy. It requires discipline and single-mindedness. Each of us can come up with some excuse or other as to why it's not for us.

5th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

"Rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Rewards and praise aren't what motivate a steward's lifestyle. Rather, a steward is guided by making choices for the sake of the kingdom.

6th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 10:25-37

Taking care, even of those we may not like, is one of the marks which sets a true steward apart.

7th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 10:38-42

The life of a steward involves times of action, of doing, as well as times of inaction, of listening. Preferring/enjoying one over the other may be a sign that we need to rearrange our lives.

8th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 11:1-13

As God's loved child you have been given a lot of gifts. Are you using them to help God's dream, God's reign, become a reality?

9th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 12:13-21

A stern warning to those who are concerned only for the own physical welfare! A steward is called to balance their own needs and wants with those of God's dream.

10th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 12:32-40

Earthly wealth and possessions aren't necessarily signs that a person is living a stewardship lifestyle. Rather, as Jesus advises, don't get all wrapped up with possessions.

11th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 12:49-56

Accepting the call to live as true stewards is going to be tough! We might even discover that members of our own family can't accept such a lifestyle.

12th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 13:10-17

As stewards of all that God has given us, including Sabbath rest, how does our use of time let others see that we actually mean what we say, that we do what we talk about?

13th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus reminds us that the calling of a steward is to take care of those from whom we can expect no reward. This is not an easy task for many of us.

14th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 14:25-33

Jesus seems to talk about possessions a great deal. To be his disciple, to be a steward, requires saying good-bye to everything which we think belongs to us.

15th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 15:1-10

The Pharisees and the scribes (the 'elite') grumble and complain that Jesus welcomes and eats with 'sinners.' How do we practice hospitality when someone different shows up at the Lord's Table?

16th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 16:1-13

It's impossible to have the same level of loyalty for two 'masters.' As a steward, as one who takes care, in which do you have more loyalty: God, or a bank account?

17th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 16:19-31

What will it take? How are we going to get the message that the choices we make and the lifestyle we adopt will have far-reaching consequences?

18th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 17:5-10

A steward: one who has 'done only what [s/he] ought to have done.' Can we have the humility to make such a statement and actually meant it?

Harvest Thanksgiving - John 6:25-35

Jesus assures his followers that they never need to be afraid of scarcity. As stewards, do we live a life which reflects our belief in the abundance of God?

19th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 17:11-19

Each and every day we are given the opportunity to witness and maybe even be part of some miracle. Do we see these miracles and give God thanks for them?

20th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 18:1-8

Living out a steward's lifestyle requires a lot of persistence. It's easy to get discouraged, to 'lose heart.' But, we carry on, knowing that God is faithful and can be trusted!

21st Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 18:9-14

A lesson on humility and judging others.

A steward is one who uses their gifts, taking care not to compare what they do with others.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 19:1-10

What a generous move by Zacchaeus!

His encounter with Jesus moves him to respond with real benevolence. Has your encounter with Jesus had the same effect?

All Saints - Luke 6:20-36

Jesus gives many clues as to what a steward's life will look like. How many of them would describe the way you live your life?

23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 20:27-38

How will talking about hypothetical situations help God's kingdom/God's dream become a reality? As stewards, we mustn't let ourselves get sidetracked.

24th Sunday after Pentecost - Luke 21:5-19

Jesus speaks about the how the beautiful temple will one day be destroyed. As stewards who are called to care for buildings where we gather, are we making the best use of these facilities?

Last Sunday after Pentecost - The Reign of Christ - Luke 23:33-43

The Reign of Christ will be ushered in when we truly acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives, and allow ourselves to be directed by him and try to live as faithful stewards.