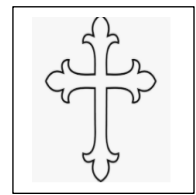


Perley Lutheran Parish
November 15th, 2020
Lectionary 33



Gathering Hymn When Peace Like a River

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
What ever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Welcome and Announcements

- Back to only on-line service until further notice because of high numbers in the region
- Service will be mailed out to those without facebook capabilities – if you aren't getting it and want it mailed please call the church office.
- Sunday School packets going out this weekend – if you still wish to receive one please contact pastor ASAP
- Help our Digital Light Shine – if you can't do go fund me you can always mail in a check (Please note "go fund me" in the subject line)
- Reach out to Pastor or office if you need anything
- Special thank you to Brian Gonzalez for all the work he has done to get up-to-speed on streaming services from Kirkebo – this allows John some much needed time for family and fun.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy One,

We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through +Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its people, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Psalms 90:1-12 (Read Responsively)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.** You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.** You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.** For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. **You have set our iniquities before you, our**

secret sins in the light of your countenance. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. **The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.** Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. **So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7. 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth 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. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people 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. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Holy Gospel according Matthew 25:14-30, **Glory to you O Lord**

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Think about some of the special gifts or talents God gave you. (Allow time.) Let's look in my gift box to see what I'm talking about. (Open the gift box and pull out a card.) Maybe God has gifted you with a musical talent like singing or playing an instrument. (Invite kids to sing a few notes, such as "Doe, ray, me!") Some of you

may have been given athletic skills which make you very good at playing a sport. (Invite kids to pretend to shoot a basket.) Maybe you have intellectual gifts; so you do very well in school. (Have kids make a book shape with their hands and pretend to read.) Some of you may have artistic talents and can paint, draw, or sculpt. (Have kids pretend to paint a picture.) Some of you may be good at dancing or acting. (Invite kids to stand up and do a quick dance move.) Let's see what your talent is. Repeat the action we did for your greatest area of talent. (Pause for kids to respond.) No matter what gifts God gave you, I know He's given each and every one of you at least one special gift or talent.

When God gives you a gift, He expects you to use it. He doesn't want the gift to go to waste. God wants you to take that gift and use it to show others how great He is. That's what our Bible lesson is about today.

In the Bible, Jesus tells many parables. Parables are stories that teach a lesson. Today, we'll hear Jesus' parable called "The Parable of the Talents."

Jesus' story starts with a man who went off on a long trip. (Have kids pretend to throw a backpack over their shoulder.) Before he left, he called his servants together and gave each of them a part of his wealth to take care of while he was gone. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to a third he gave one bag. Then he left on his journey.

While he was gone, the servant who had five bags of gold worked hard and doubled his five bags so he ended up with ten bags of gold. (Invite kids to cheer for the man who used his talents.) The man with two bags also doubled his; so he had four. (Invite kids to cheer for the second man who used his talents.) But the servant with one bag dug a hole and buried his boss's money. (Invite kids to show thumbs down.)

When the boss returned, he asked his servants to share what they did with the gifts he gave them. The boss told the two who doubled their bags, "Well done! Because you have used what I gave you well, I will give you much more."

Then the third servant told the boss, "I was afraid, so I took what you gave me and hid it in the ground so that it would be safe."

"You lazy servant!" the boss answered. "You could have at least put the gold in the bank so that I could have earned a little interest on it." The boss took the gold from the servant and gave it to the one who already had the most. He explained, "To those who make what they have been given better will be given more. But from those who do nothing, theirs will be taken away."

Sometimes we might think God hasn't given us very much talent. We might even be tempted to hide our talent. But when we use our God-given talent to be all that God planned for us to be, He will give us even more!

Dear God, we thank You for the gifts You've given each of us. We pray that we will be faithful in using these gifts to show others how wonderful You are. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

The Parable of the Talents – some of you may remember that we heard a message just a few weeks ago during my installation, when Pastor Taylor Wilson spoke to us about this passage. As I struggled this week with all that is going on in this world - in our communities with Covid cases, in my College position – I'm in the

middle of a big audit for a process that I just took over a couple of weeks ago so am really stressing about things – and in our churches as we continue to have to adjust and change to how to serve our members and watchers and still stay safe, a new plan for Thanksgiving, a possible new plan for Christmas – I found myself really having a hard time buckling down to get this message on paper. It is with this admittance that I acknowledge a Pastor Kevin Ruffcorn whose message I found very helpful when penning this one for you today. There are those days when you need to rely on some help from others and this was one of those days for me.

Let's begin with a story. Alexander Solzhenitsyn (Soul-Jen-its-in) was a prisoner in Russia. He was on a program of hard labor and slow starvation. One day he felt like giving up. He felt his life could not make a difference. He sat down on a bench knowing that when he was spotted by a guard he would be ordered back to work when he failed to respond the guard would bludgeon him to death. As he sat waiting, head down, he felt a presence. Slowly he lifted his eyes. Next to him sat an old man with a wrinkled, utterly expressionless face. Hunched over, the old man drew a stick through the sand at Solzhenitsyn's feet deliberately tracing out the sign of the cross. As Solzhenitsyn stared at the rough outline his entire perspective shifted. Yet in that moment, he knew that the hope of all mankind was represented by that simple cross - and through its power anything was possible.

Solzhenitsyn slowly got up, picked up his shovel and went back to work - not knowing that his writings on truth and freedom would one day enflame the whole world.

Many of you may have heard Steve Jobs talk about facing death prior to his loss of battling cancer and how knowing he was facing this deadly disease changed his perspective on life. He valued each and every day he had, he refused to follow trivial pursuits or to do what he didn't want to do, and he took risks and wasn't afraid of failure. Steve Jobs' change in perspective enabled him to do great things in life.

Many of us can attest to the power of a perspective change. When we see the world differently, we live differently. It has been said that perception is reality. A rollercoaster can be either scary or thrilling—it depends on how you perceive it. I admit – I perceive it scary at all times. HA HA With this "Parable of the Talents," Jesus invites his followers to see life from a different perspective.

Jesus speaks these words to his disciples – those mish mash of men who have left everything to go and follow him. Those faithful disciples who before much longer will find themselves without Jesus to lead them. Now clearly, that is going to be a very different perspective for them to see life through. They won't have Jesus, they will have to wait before they are gifted the Spirit – remember Jesus comes and brings that to them after he has risen – and most important is they WILL suffer, be persecuted and ridiculed because of their faith in the Son.

Life wasn't easy for the early Christians – many times people who believed in Christ would find themselves separated from not only society but even their families. Authorities would persecute them for not following in line with what those in power wanted them to be and do. There was even fighting between the Christians – Jewish and Gentile Christians – having different ideas on how evangelism should happen and how aggressive they needed to be to unite as one. Things back then were in a bit of a turmoil – trying to view life in a good and united way wasn't easy. Sound familiar??? Boy we can sure understand that feeling these past few months, right?? What and how we make things better and be more kind is all about perspective. Do we want to wallow in the pain, hurt and unkindness or do we want to look at our life and our world in a positive and perhaps changing way?

Do we look at life with the glass empty mantra – we don't have this, we want that, we can't get this, we should've been given this, we earned that and we deserve this? We place our perspective on a lens of scarcity – what we are missing – rather than on what we have.

Perhaps we look at life through the perspective of abundance. The master in our story entrusted all of his wealth to his servants. In this world we live in – one in which we are impatient and want things to happen and be right now – the idea of abundance for a long period of time, like the servants were given, is hard for most of us to understand. Think about a talent being the same as five years of wages – that's a lot of money!!!! This master is inviting his servants to live a life of abundance – have what they need and be taken care of. He isn't just giving them economic and physical wealth but he is given them a fullness – an abundance of God's grace, and steadfast love, and unconditional forgiveness. A life of abundance in which we can celebrate that God's is in our lives and with us always. If we think about the talents in OUR lives then it would be in allowing God's do adventures with us and us allowing our talents to be at God's disposal. The talents in this passage aren't about our natural abilities but rather about God's life and power and how we should allow God's hands to use our talents – our abilities.

The servants who did this – used them wisely – increased them and were invited to celebrate with the master. The joy of the master was in a feast of self-giving and sharing and distributing to others. Just like all that was gained by the disciples when they left it all behind to follow Jesus. The gain was greater than the loss. But we know – there was one servant who didn't get to see the abundance that was his.

What if we consider this parable as a parable of invitation? Perhaps the third servant's plight takes on a different perspective. If, the master is inviting, continually inviting into superabundance, grace, and joy (which is nothing other than inviting into discipleship) then the only conclusion that can be drawn is the third servant is not able to hear or accept the invitation. The third servant has not only hidden the talent, he has buried HIMSELF. The third servant is seeing things more in the scarcity more – condemning himself to a place – a life – that knows not joy, that knows only darkness, and that know no grace.

Could God become for us what we believe God to be? For those who believe God to be gracious, giving, and forgiving; to them God is that. For those who believe God to be hard, demanding, and judgmental; to them God is that. I honestly think that our inadequate beliefs, our skewed perceptions, shape how we view God and his activity in our lives.

We all know a little something about limited wealth in our country, but there are also illustrations of things that when given away do not diminish. Imagine a candle lighting service for instance. When one person shares the light of a candle with another person, the first person's light isn't diminished in any way; and there is now twice as much light in the place. Another example may be the love of a parent for a new addition to the family – it doesn't diminish the love they have for the child or children that came before.

Could not the same thing be said of sharing love? Or sharing the gospel? Our ability to love doesn't diminish by sharing it; and there will be more love in the world. The power of the gospel is not diminished by sharing it; and there could be more believers in the world. Now more than ever – let's find ourselves sharing the love of God and the light of hope. Let us celebrate and bear witness to our abundance!

Amen

Special Hymn of the Day My Lighthouse

*In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea*

*In the silence, You won't let go
In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea*

*My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore...
Safe to shore...
Safe to shore...
Safe to shore*

*I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea...
You are my light*

Apostles Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**)

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works for your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation or disaster – such as storms and fires and hurricanes have caused ruin. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. May leaders proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevail. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Healing God, even when we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Paxley and Vern, like Veronica and Lisa, Anita and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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.

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

Amen

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

Sending Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Dismissal – Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, November 22nd - 9AM Facebook Live Stream from Kirkebo

Pastor Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com

The Parable of the Talents (or Minas)



Parable of the Talents

Jumble



Don't bury your _____.

MERTSA

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1

GNAIED

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4

NEOMY

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5

TSRVNEA

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2

6

AZLY

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3

ANSWER:

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1

2

3

4

5

6

Bible Memory Verse

For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

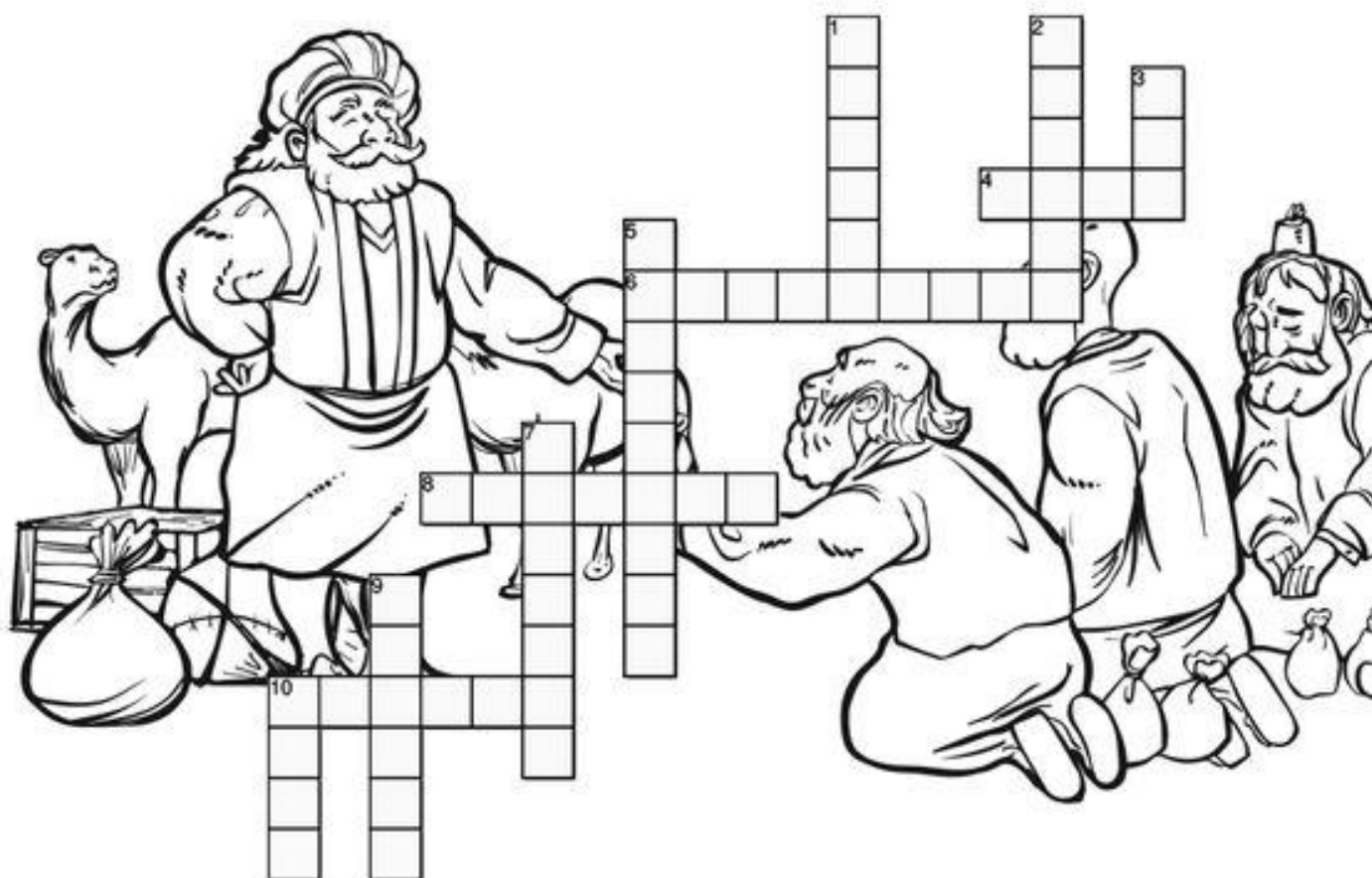
Matthew 25:29 (NIV)

ANSWERS

Master, gained, money, servant, lazy, talent

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Matthew 25:14-30



Across

4. The first servant was given ____ talents.
6. The master, angry with the third servant, cast him out of his ____ forever.
8. The third servant lost his talent to the ____ who gained five, because he had wasted it.
10. The wealthy man divided his wealth among his servants, based on their ability to ____ it.

Down

1. The first and second servants put their money to work, producing ____ the amount of talents they were given.
2. Fearing that he would lose his money, the third servant ____ his talent.
3. The third servant was given ____ talent.
5. Each talent was equal to ____ of dollars.
7. The wealthy man put his servants in charge of his wealth so that his estate would continue to ____.
9. Many days, weeks and ____ passed before the master returned.
10. Because the first two servants had been faithful with a few things, the master put them in charge of ____ things.





The Ten Talents

Matthew 25: 14-30

Look carefully at the words below. Each of these has been hidden in the word search.

Words can be on the horizontal, diagonal, backwards, forwards, up and down.

DESPICABLE	BELONGINGS	PROPORTION	ENTRUSTED	ACCORDING
DELIVERED	ABUNDANCE	COMMITTED	HAPPINESS	WINNOWING
RECEIVED	ASSIGNED	FAITHFUL	ACCOUNTS	INVESTED
SUMMONED	DARKNESS	INTEREST	SLOTHFUL	PROPERTY
SERVANT	DOUBLED	JOURNEY	ABILITY	PRAISED
BANKERS	TALENT	GROUND	JOYOUS	LITTLE
LOANED	MASTER	TRADED	SETTLE	MONEY
ENTER	OUTER	SHARE	GNASH	TEETH
FIVE	LAZY	WEEP	REAP	

D K H A Q C
 L Z S T W L I B
 R D T W T D E S I A R P W
 H E D N U O R G U N I
 N S U O Y O J
 G E L B A C I P S E D I L
 I E V I F S C E Z B F Q
 A S N P Y G L G G J
 W T S T N T H O
 E E Y R A T A S Z T A
 E R E E S E P B G G D H B E R
 P E N P H S P X J M B N E F I N H
 S R O G N I D R O C C A I T U L T I
 T U R O Y N Q S N M L G H N G S L I E
 C O P U M E V E E I O N D Y Q K N U J T R
 J D T K S J C Y X A I E T Z S M E O R L Y
 E M E E S P N U T N W V R H T E E T R L T W H
 L R A G L A S N E O I A D E L B U O D S E N G
 T R W S D I A D N E D E T T I M M O C B W B E
 T X E N T V V N C E R A H S T L U F H T I A F
 I G U A R E I E D P N O I T R O P O R P C F L
 L B C E P W R C R N L D T N E L A T I W B A F
 A S S E N K R A D E W J D E N O M M U S Z A W
 S T N U O C C A D D E T S E V N I Y Q