



Sunday Worship, September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

St Luke Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

Bud Esper, Director of Church Music
Alice Christiansen, Hymn Leader
Kathleen Moore, Lector
Emil Gnam, Worship Assistant

Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of my husband Bob Barnhart by Karen Barnhart
and
In Memory of RJ Murray by his family

SUNDAY WORSHIP, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Adagio and Trio", Jeff Perks.

Bud Esper, organ

@2020 Lorenz Publishing. Used by permission under One License #A-729360. All rights reserved.

GATHERING

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

c Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

c Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

c we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus

Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

c Amen.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

c And also with you.

KYRIE

WA In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

c Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

WA Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

c Amen.

WORD

P God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

L ¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

c Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 8-13

L ¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

c ²Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

L ³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

c ⁴One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

L ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

c ⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

L ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

c ⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

L ²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L The word of the Lord.

c **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

c *Alleluia.* In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

c **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came,

they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The gospel of the Lord.

c Praise to you, O Christ.

+++ SERMON +++ Rev. Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor +++

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Faithfulness), #733, (verses 1-3)

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960. Music: William Runyan, 1870-1957. © 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission under One License #A-729360. All rights reserved.

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

APOSTLES' CREED

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

c 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 into hell. 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we receive Alex and Candy Brooker into our St Luke family.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

WA Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,
c hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
c Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
c And also with you.

SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD



Without shaking hands, share the universal sign of peace with your neighbors.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, call forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

c we give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

c we give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

c we give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, of God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom,

with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

c Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

c **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.**

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

c Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (The Servant Song), #659 (verses 1-3)

Text and music: Richard Gillard, b. 1953. © 1977 Integrity Music. Used by permission under One License #A-729360. All rights reserved.

1 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

c Thanks be to God.



Portions recorded by permission under One License #A-729360. All rights reserved.

Portions from sundaysandseasons.com.

Portions copyright ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

-Notice-

**The St. Luke Yard/Estate/Bakery Sale
has been rescheduled to Saturday, September 26.**

The Sale Volunteers have done a lot of amazing work so far
and there is more to do.

Please contact George Drakulic (336.944.4958 or drak3@ymail.com)
for information on the assistance needed for

Set Up (Sept 24 & 25)

Security (Sept 25 into Sept 26)

Sale Day (Sept 26)