

**September 20, 2020**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



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## Introduction

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

### Confession and Forgiveness

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN                      Our God Reigns**

**Our God is great and Glorious  
We put our trust in Your Name, Jesus  
Able to save and deliver us  
We put our hope in Your Name, Jesus**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power  
Unto our God forever and ever  
All of the honor, all of the praise is Yours! Yours forever!**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns**

**Our God is mighty and marvelous  
We put our trust in Your Name, Jesus  
Nothing to fear, you are here with us  
We put our hope in Your Name, Jesus**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power  
Unto our God forever and ever  
All of the honor, all of the praise is Yours! Yours forever!**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns**

**Our God is in control, steadfast unmovable  
Nothing's impossible, Our God reigns forever  
Our God is in control, steadfast unmovable  
Nothing's impossible, Our God reigns**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Our God reigns**

**Our God is in control, steadfast unmovable  
Nothing's impossible, Our God reigns forever  
Our God is in control, steadfast unmovable  
Nothing's impossible, Our God reigns**

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10-4:11**

<sup>10</sup>When 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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He 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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then 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.

<sup>6</sup>The 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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When 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."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then 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. <sup>11</sup>And 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. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 145:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

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

<sup>27</sup>Only, 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, <sup>28</sup>and 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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And 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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When 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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## **O Come To The Altar**

**Are you hurting and broken  
within.  
Overwhelmed by the weight of  
your sin.  
Jesus is calling. Have you come to  
the end of yourself.  
Do you thirst for a drink from the  
well.  
Jesus is calling.**

**O come to the altar.  
The Father's arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with,  
The precious blood of Jesus  
Christ.**

**Leave behind your regrets and  
mistakes.  
Come today there's no reason to  
wait.  
Jesus is calling.  
Bring your sorrows and trade  
them for joy.  
From the ashes a new life is born.  
Jesus is calling.**

**O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus  
Christ**

**Oh what a Savior.  
Isn't he wonderful.  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.  
Bow down before him. For he is  
Lord of all. Sing alleluia,  
Christ is risen.**

**Oh what a Savior.  
Isn't he wonderful.  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.  
Bow down before him. For he is  
Lord of all. Sing alleluia,  
Christ is risen.**

**O come to the altar. The Father's  
arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with,  
The precious blood of Jesus  
Christ.**

**O come to the altar. The Father's  
arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with,  
The precious blood of Jesus  
Christ.**

**Bear your cross as you wait for  
the crown.  
Tell the world of the treasure  
you've found.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer petition ends*

**O God, you are full of compassion:  
graciously hear our prayer.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Let us pray.

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

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.

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, we give you thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist, and washed the disciples' feet, saying: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

And after supper, when he had gone out, Jesus said to the disciples: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

For where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, the body of Christ is present, with us always, to the end of the age.

Send your Spirit of truth, O 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. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

## **Glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

**My God You reign  
Forever and ever  
How great Your name  
Your love remains  
Forever and ever  
You stay the same**

**Shout it out, shout it out If you  
know He's good  
Sing it out, sing it out For the  
Lord is good  
Shout it out loud You are glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

**My God You reign  
Forever and ever  
How great Your name  
Your love remains  
Forever and ever  
You stay the same**

**Shout it out, shout it out If you  
know He's good  
Sing it out, sing it out For the  
Lord is good  
Shout it out loud You are glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

*(Repeat X 3)*

**Shine Jesus, You shine for all the  
world to see**

**You are glorious (You are  
glorious)  
You are glorious (You are  
glorious)**

**Oh God You are glorious**

**Glorious, Shout it out and  
Glorious, Make it louder  
Jesus we shout Your name  
Jesus we make Your praise  
Glorious, You are glorious**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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