

## The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ September 20, 2020

***WELCOME!** Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his 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.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

#### THE OPENING HYMN – “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571

- 1    God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,  
      That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.
- 2    Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
      All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3    God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
      His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4    Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
      And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5    If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
      Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.
- 6    Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
      To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

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### THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** O Lord, open my lips.

**C:** **And my mouth will declare Your praise**    *Ps. 51:15*

**P:** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C:** **Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**    *Ps. 70:1*

**P:** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and to call upon him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C:** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed be God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

C: **O come, let us worship Him!**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving-kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody that generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

LSB 912

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace  
And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore  
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest  
Are called away.
- 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

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### ✠ THE WORD ✠

#### THE FIRST READING – Jonah 3:10-4:11, ESV

*The Old Testament reading begins after Jonah's short sermon, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown." The Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive.*

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Do you do well to be angry?"

Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the Lord God

appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.” And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SECOND READING – Philippians 1:21-30, ESV**

*In this reading, Paul is writing to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

[Paul wrote:] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy[h] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE HYMN – “Lord, Be Glorified”**

**Tune: Be Glorified**

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In your world, Lord, be glorified.

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### **THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 20:1-16, ESV**

[Jesus said:] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he

sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE HYMN – “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”**

**LSB 827**

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
  
- 2 Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;  
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;  
Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,  
There to gather in the bounty That God’s Word so richly yields.
  
- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,  
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;  
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—  
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.
  
- 4 Harken to the Lord whose coming Marks the time when grace shall end,  
When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Then the souls His grace has garnered Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

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**THE MESSAGE**

**✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

**THE HYMN – “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”**

**LSB 806**

- 1 Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given  
Jesus Christ His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks.

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

**P:** May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C: Amen.**

## THE HYMN – "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

(V.s. 5)

LSB 821

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

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**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**