

Worship in the Home
Trinity Lutheran Church
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2020

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.

Announcements

[NOTE: We had problems with the audio portion of the video at times. For this week, there may be times when you have to adjust your volume, and other times when it sounds like only one person is singing. I apologize and we will work to correct the imbalance issues for next week. Pastor Tim]

Welcome to worship. We are glad that you are joining us today. I am Tim Bernard the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. I am joined by our cantor, Brian Larson, and our assisting minister, Deborah Gelerter Bernard. We give God thanks that Brian is recovering from his illness and are grateful that he is with us today, leading us in singing God's praises. I am sure many in the congregation are also relieved to hear him with us again.

I recently attended a Finance Team meeting, and our giving has dipped below our expenses for the month of August. If you are not caught up on your giving, please consider catching up this month as we have a couple of large bills that come due annually, one in October and one in November. It would be good if we could pay those without going into our reserves. Thank you for your generosity.

Now, let us pray that God will break open our hearts and minds, turn us to be more loving and gracious to our neighbors, especially those people we do not know, do not understand, or do not like. May God lead us to grow in gratitude and grace...

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for a new life in you.

Send us forth to be agents of change and beacons light in the midst of a suffering world, through, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn – “O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us” #431

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

1 O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our
 2 You came, the im - age of our God, to heal and to for -
 3 Though some would make their great - ness felt and lord it o - ver
 4 You chose a hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re -

king? What roy - al face have you re - vealed whose
 give, to shed your blood for sin - ners' sake that
 all, you said the first must be the last and
 now; you died for us up - on a cross with

praise the church would sing? As - pir - ing not to
 we might rise and live. To break the law of
 ser - vice be our call. O Christ, in work - place,
 thorns your on - ly crown. But still, be - yond the

glo - ry's height, to pow - er, wealth, and fame, you
 death you came, the law of love to bring; a
 church, and home, let none to pow - er cling; for
 span of years, our glad ho - san - nas ring, for

walked a dif - f'rent, low - ly way, an - oth - er's will your aim.
 dif - f'rent rule of righ - teous - ness, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 still, through us, you come to serve, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 now at God's right hand you reign, a dif - f'rent kind of king!

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

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

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, 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: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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.

^{4:1}But 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8 *All sing the refrain and verses*

Sing praise to the Lord, your God, for God is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics underneath. The fourth staff is a shorter melodic line, likely a refrain or ending. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

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

⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.

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

⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

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

⁸The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. *Refrain*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes 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.

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation *All sing the Alleluias, Cantor sings the Verse*



Cantor: Open | our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said | by your Son.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

[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.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #587

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
 for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
 in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
 ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
 through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
 of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
 by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
 let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

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 are broken and suffer in any way, and may you give us the confident strength to stand with them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, gracious God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. We pray for all those affected by the fires out West and for those affected by Hurricane Sally in the South. Strengthen and protect fire fighters, rescue squads, EMTs, and all those who venture into harm's way in order to help others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are, O God, 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, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you, O God, choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. We pray for those persons who are ill, hurting, or dying with Covid-19 throughout our world. Comfort those who are grieving losses of loved ones. Surround us all with your peace, and for those who weigh heavily on our hearts and minds as we pause now... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

Pastor continues with...

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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;
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

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you with mercy and grace.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. To love and serve your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Trumpet Tune (*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*) - Robert A. Hobby

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Participants

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