

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

WELCOMING WORD: *Jesus reminds us that God is merciful and just and welcomes all equally into the Kingdom of Heaven, like how a landowner pays their workers the same wage no matter what time of the day they began work.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: I will exalt you, my God and king,

C: and bless your name forever and ever.

L: One generation shall praise your works to another,

C: and shall declare your power.

L: I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,

C: and all your marvelous works

L: They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;

C: they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

L: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

C: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

OPENING HYMN # 526 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might.
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and eternal God,

C: 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 the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jonah 3:10-4:11 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.⁴¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.² 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.³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.⁸ 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."⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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?"

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30 ²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for our progress and joy in faith,²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.²⁷ 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,²⁸ 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.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well --³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 ¹[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.⁶ 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?'⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'⁸ 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.'⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² 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.'¹³ 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?'¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

MESSAGE - Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN # 307 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;
How trifling others' debts to us; How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: 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 God works through in bringing the Kingdom of heaven near.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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.

L: Where we find envy and create enemies, you 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: 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.

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

C: Amen

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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #771 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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 has 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 hands hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and spring time 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**

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**

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Dorothy Jelle
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Martha Hartman
Jeannie U'Ren
Ruth Ann Nemet
Irene Bruflat
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Julie Joles and her daughter and granddaughter



DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Matthew 9:9-13,
Tuesday, Romans 16:17-20,
Wednesday, Matthew 18:1-5,
Thursday, Psalm 25:1-9,
Friday, Ezekiel 18:5-18,
Saturday, Ezekiel 18:19-24

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: ¹⁴**Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.** -- **Matthew 20:14** Jesus shares a parable with his disciples about how a landowner is like the kingdom of heaven that **“the last will be first, and the first will be last.”** -- **Matthew 20:16**

- How often have you felt overlooked by others?
- Have you felt that you have deserved something more or greater than someone else?
- How does it make you feel that God invites and welcomes all people into the kingdom of heaven?
- How does God's fairness and justice differ from what we often think of as fair and just?

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 the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

BLESS: May you remember how God's forgiveness has set you free. Amen!