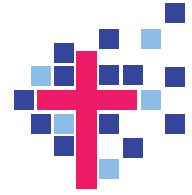


Sixteenth Sunday after PENTECOST



Welcome to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

*By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:
Worship God, Grow in faith, Share the Gospel, Serve others, Welcome all*



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

Pastor Dave Thomas

PRELUDE

Dean Robinson, organist

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God:

C We confess we are in bondage 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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and

C of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

Blessing and Honor

1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the

rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our
 earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
 scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and
 robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the

bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
 for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
 glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we
 Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to

throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
 pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
 raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
 reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

KYRIE

ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CANTICLE

ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three

This Is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

1. Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

2. Pow - er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon - or, — bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Refrain

Bless - ing, hon-or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

Refrain

4. For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Judy Brennan

Let us pray: Guiding God, on our own we are lost. Like sheep we are prone to wander off, into danger and away from the security of the flock. But like a shepherd, you direct us by your word to right paths. Help us follow your ways of righteousness, grant us your merciful judgment when we stray, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Jonah 3:10 – 4:11 (NRSV)

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?

L A reading from Jonah.

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.

^{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?"

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8 (NRSV)

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

- ¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ²**Every 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.
- ⁴**One 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.
- ⁶**They 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.
- ⁸**The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**
-

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

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.

L A reading from Philippians.

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

ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

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

P The Holy Gospel as recorded in St. Matthew the 20th chapter.

C 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dave Thomas

Alarming Grace, How Strange the Sound

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.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938–1984

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends, "Hear us, O Lord."

To which the congregation responds, "**Your mercy is great.**"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

Dean Robinson, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face graciously shine upon you.
The Lord's mercy and peace be yours,
This day and forever.

C **Amen.**



On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

continued...

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

SENT TO SERVE

P Jesus said, "As I have been sent, so also I send you."

By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:

C **Worship God,**
Grow in Faith,
Share the Gospel,
Serve Others,
Welcome All. — Thanks be to God!

