

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2020



Online Service

Kviteseid and Big Bend Lutheran Churches

Pastor Kristine Isder

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 and announcements

Opening Hymn: Rise Up, O Saints of God! ELW #669

** Call to Worship:

P: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; *Ps. 145:3-4*

C: God's greatness is unsearchable.

P: Generations of believers will tell each other:

C: God has done mighty things!

**Confession & Forgiveness

P: Because we do not always live our lives *Phil. 1:27*
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ,
we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings.
In repentance, let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

C: Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you.

We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity.

We have not been gracious or grateful.

We have failed to remember all that you have done.

Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude.

Help us to share our gifts and strengthen us for your service, O God.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

P: People of God, our sins are forgiven; *Matt. 20:15-16*
we are reconciled to God.

Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

C: Amen.

Greeting

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

C: 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.

Lesson: 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?

Psalm 145:1-8

L: ¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: ²Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

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

C: ⁴One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

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

C: ⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

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

C: ⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Lesson: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Great Is Thy Faithfulness ELW #733

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

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

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

C: Amen.

Sharing The Peace

P: The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

**** Offering Prayer**

P: Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the resources gathered here.

Use these gifts for the advancement of your kingdom; in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**** Charge**

P: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, Phil 1:27
and stand firm in the Spirit.

**** Blessing**

P: May the generous grace of Christ attend you, the astounding love of God find you, and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you, everywhere and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn: On Our Way Rejoicing ELW #537

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