

PRAYER SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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 ✙ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## OPENING DIALOGUE

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**

<sup>10</sup>When 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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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?"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 145:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since 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: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel of Matthew beginning in the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## 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 into hell.

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 suffer for Christ (*especially*).

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

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers.

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.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*).

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## BLESSING

Mothering God,  
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## **Prayers of the Faithful for week of September 20, 2020**

### **TODAY we pray for:**

Family and friends of Dan Frederick as they mourn his death  
Payton Howle, diagnosed with Coronavirus  
Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez  
Pat Corrigan—mother of Diane Teig  
For all those in our hearts and minds today.

### **WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Alexis (Ford) Ward & family  
Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke  
Kyle, diagnosed with Coronavirus.  
Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck  
Vera Wagenfuhr  
For Leslie, friend of Diane Teig.  
For Jack Baskow  
For Claudia and Geof Bromfield who are dealing with health issues.  
Connie and family  
Scott Wycoff  
The Fenner family  
John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur  
Mike Goyda  
Lis Verbeck  
Lois Snyder  
David & Angie Wasgatt, Lou Ellen Machin, Evelyn Pettit, Dick Johnson, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, John Maurer, Bob Waller, Bill & Barbie Monaghan, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Moira & Ed, Tyler, Eloise, Rich, Nancy & Mike Schuster, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay  
For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl  
For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh  
For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones  
For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;  
For the congregation of Hope Lutheran, New Castle as they prepare for their new pastor.  
For all pastors and church leaders as they care.  
For our country, the United States and leaders and citizens.  
For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the Covid19 virus.

**To request or change prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481) or email the [office@gmail.com](mailto:office@gmail.com).**

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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