

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20th, 2020



Choir practice during COVID.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

*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.*

## GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Prière à Notre-Dame*

Léon Böellmann

### WELCOME, COMMUNITY LIFE, and PRAISE REPORTS

*The congregation rises in body or spirit*

### CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Most merciful God,  
**w**e **c**onfess **t**hat **w**e **a**re **c**aptive **t**o **s**in **a**nd **c**annot **f**ree **o**urselves. **W**e **h**ave **s**inned **a**gainst **y**ou **i**n **t**hought, **w**ord, **a**nd **d**eed, **b**y **w**hat **w**e **h**ave **d**one **a**nd **b**y **w**hat **w**e **h**ave **l**eft **u**ndone. **W**e **h**ave **n**ot **l**oved **y**ou **w**ith **o**ur **w**hole **h**eart; **w**e **h**ave **n**ot **l**oved **o**ur **n**eighbors **a**s **o**urselves. **F**or **t**he **s**ake **o**f **y**our **S**on, **J**esus **C**hrist, **h**ave **m**ercy **o**n **u**s. **F**orgive **u**s, **r**enew **u**s, **a**nd **l**ead **u**s, **s**o **t**hat **w**e **m**ay **d**elight **i**n **y**our **w**ill **a**nd **w**alk **i**n **y**our **w**ays, **t**o **t**he **g**lory **o**f **y**our **h**oly **n**ame. **Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

**OPENING HYMN: *Great is Thy Faithfulness***

**Hymn # 733**

1 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 hast 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 hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime 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

3 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

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960. Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957. © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted by permission under from One License with license #A-704953.

*The congregation rises in body or spirit*

**GREETING**

P 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.**

**GLORY TO GOD**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

(cont.)

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

## **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**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **WORD**

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### **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?*

<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.**

## 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.*

<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.**

*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Choir Only: *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*  
*Alleluia. Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**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.*

[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 congregation is seated.*

**SERMON –It's not about the fish!!!!**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: Give Me Jesus**

**Hymn # 770**

1 In the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise,  
give me Jesus.

Refrain

Give me Jesus,  
give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest,  
give me Jesus.

2 Dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry,  
give me Jesus. Refrain

Text: African American spiritual. Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual. Public Domain. Hymnal Version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953.

*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## **THE 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.**

3 Just about the break of day,  
just about the break of day,  
just about the break of day,  
give me Jesus. Refrain

4 Oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die,  
give me Jesus. Refrain

5 And when I want to sing,  
and when I want to sing,  
and when I want to sing,  
give me Jesus. Refrain

## THE PRAYERS

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. Today we pray especially for Joan, Betty, and those we name before you before you now either silently in our hearts or spoken from our lips... Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **OFFERING:**

*During this time of offering, we ask that you remember the church's ongoing expenses and our ongoing need to be generous people of God. Offerings may be dropped off or mailed to the church. You may also visit our website at [gethsemanestl.org](http://gethsemanestl.org) to donate electronically.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: Purify My Heart**

Brian Doerksen,  
arr. Patrick Tierney

*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:  
C **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**

## **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father,  $\ddagger$  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen**

*The congregation is seated.*

## SENDING HYMN: *On Our Way Rejoicing*

1 On our way rejoicing  
gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered;  
vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety;  
Christ within, our joy;  
who, if we be faithful,  
can our hope destroy?

2 Unto God the Father  
joyful songs we sing;  
unto God the Savior  
thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit  
bow we and adore,  
on our way rejoicing  
now and evermore. Refrain

### Refrain

On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!

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

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE: *Menuet gothique*

Léon Böellmann

*The congregation waits for guidance by the ushers to exit the sanctuary. Please refrain from stopping for fellowship until you have exited the building.*

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### Worship Leaders

Pastors:	Elizabeth and John Backus
Organist:	Dr. Steven Ball
Hymns:	Angie Fulton and Maryn Olson
Special Music:	Amy, Linus, Maeta, Matthew, and Zofie Christian

### ALTAR FLOWERS:

Today's flowers were given by Lillie Niebuhr in memory of her daughter Debbie, and her husband Gus on his birthday.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar**  
**September 20 - 27, 2020**

Today	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service (HUGS) (Streaming live on YouTube and will post on Facebook following the service)
	10:30-11:30 am	Drive-In, Food Drop
	10:30-11:30 am	Zoom / In Person Confirmation Meeting
	6:30 pm	LuMin Dinner Drop-Off
9/23 Wednesday	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
9/27 Sunday	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service (HUGS) (Streaming live on YouTube and will post on Facebook following the service)
	11:00 am	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Joan Williams** as she heals from back surgery.  
**Betty Young** as she heals from her fall and broken hip.

**Prayers of guidance for our Call Committee: Gary Borkowski, K.T. Elliott, Steve Hetager, Nick Kohlberg, Maryn Olson, and Megan Yemm.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Drive Thru DIAPER Drop!** This month's "Big Ask" is diapers. Our collection is today, Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 – 11:30 in the church parking lot. Last year we collected over 3,000 diapers and we hope to increase that number this year. Our food pantry partners are especially in need of larger sized diapers: sizes 5 and up. They are also in need of diaper wipes and toilet paper. We are also collecting wheeled suitcases, hygiene and non-perishable food items, especially canned vegetables. Items may also be dropped off during office business hours. Financial donations are always welcome too.

**Gethsemane's coffee hour is going virtual!** Have you been missing fellowship hour at Gethsemane? Good news! On Sunday, September 27, at 11am, grab your favorite morning beverage and join us on Zoom for fellowship time. We will begin together, and then break into smaller groups for 20 minutes or so. Everyone will come back together at the end for goodbyes. Look for the Zoom link and password in the September 25 e-announcements. P.S.: You will have to provide your own donuts, since we can't "Zoom" them to you.

**Genesis Bible Study:** The beginning of the book of Genesis has been read for almost 3,000 years. Before that, it was passed from generation to generation by spoken word at the hands of skilled story tellers. Theologians and Fundamentalists alike try to box the book up in one category or another. Absolute Fact! Theological Truth wrapped in Mystery! Let's let this delicious collection of words out of the boxes into which we've locked it! Join Pastor John Wednesday Evenings (October 7, 14, 28 and November 4) at 7pm on Zoom for "Genesis: Outside the Box!" These sessions will be recorded, if you wish to view them at another time.

**Praise Reports:** Do you have an announcement you would like to share with the congregation? Did you ace a test, get a puppy, get engaged, see a rainbow...? You get the idea. We want to share in your joy. Simply email or contact the church office to share your news. Praise reports will be read during the service. Once we get back to in-person worship, we hope to encourage attendees to share their own Praise Reports as part of the morning announcements.

## Sunday Funnies:

The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.

