



“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”

Matthew 20:1

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2020

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

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.

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Nine

The paraments are green during the season of Pentecost to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

William Stevens

Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son. Alleluia.

OPENING VOLUNTARY Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.

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 ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.

GATHERING HYMN 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

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.**

KYRIE



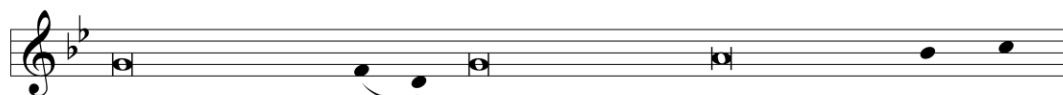
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer- cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



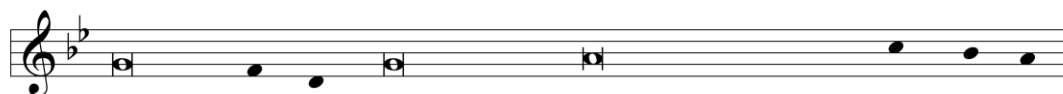
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



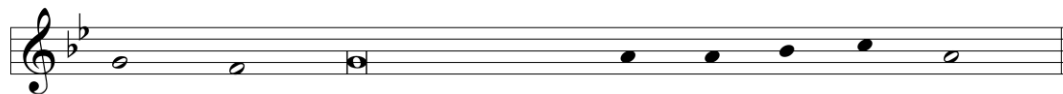
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God; you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

After the prayer the assembly responds: **Amen.**

We sit.

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

Julia Grossnickle

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10—4:11

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. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 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. 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 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. 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. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

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

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

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

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works. **℟**

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

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

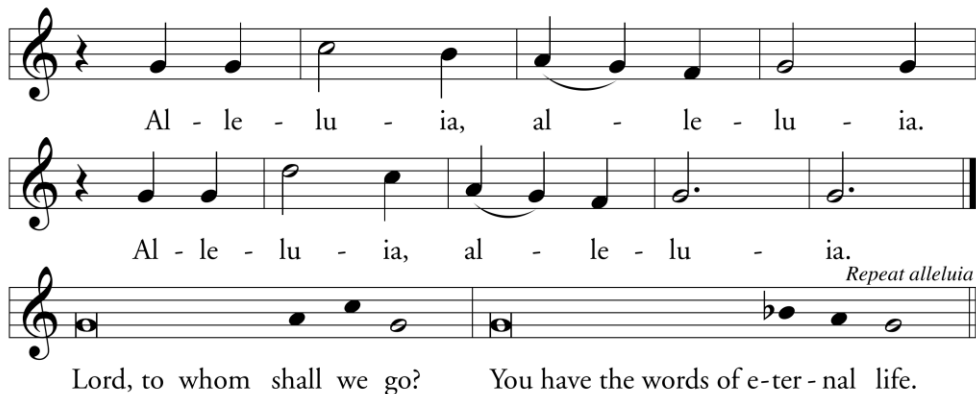
SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal life.

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Carter

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 705 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Each portion of the prayers concludes:

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.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We sit.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Salvation unto Us Has Come


J.S. Bach

Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, they help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, who did for all the world atone;
He is our mediator.

Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone and rests in him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify:
Works serve our neighbor and supply the proof that faith is living.

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

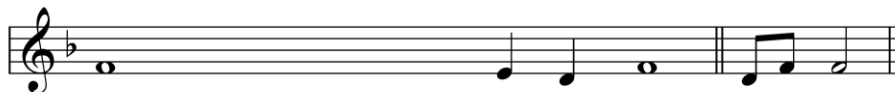
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. **A - men.**

SENDING HYMN 867 In Thee Is Gladness

IN DIR IST FREUDE



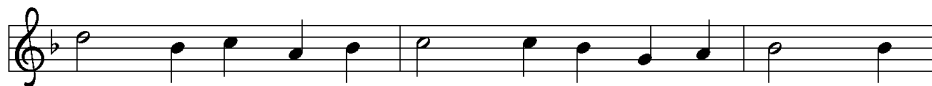
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux

François Couperin

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanks and appreciation for all those involved in making our Sunday services so special, by Jean and Bob Deaton.

This week we keep in prayer Jim and Marian Apel, 714 Chestnut Ridge Court, Winston-Salem NC 27013. Please send **Jim and Marian** a note.

Bible study continues Tuesday, September 22 with week three of Pastor Paul's four-week course called "Finding the Triune God in Scripture." A Zoom link will be sent via Flocknote.

Food Drive to support Christ's Beloved Community Food Pantry: We will be collecting non-perishable food items on Thursday, September 24, at the same three locations across our community as the last time.

Submissions for the October Beacon should be emailed to Kathy Barnes at kathy@alcws.org before noon Friday, September 25.

Save the date! The next drive-through communion will take place on Sunday, October 4.

Please remember to send in your family photos for the next family directory. Please email them to Kathy Barnes at kathy@alcws.org. If you need help with a photo, let us know and we'll arrange for a photographer to contact you. If you are interested in being a photographer, contact Shari Dominguez at sdominguez@triad.rr.com

Dessert with Pastor Lori continues this evening from 7:30-8:15 p.m. A Zoom Room has been set up so that members from our congregation can click on the link sent out via Flocknote. Come prepared to have some fun.

Altar Flower Dedications. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office for more information. We currently have open slots for Nov. 22, and 29, and Dec. 13 and 27. The total cost of both bouquets is \$80.

The Efrid L. and Maria F. Hine Fund committee will meet for its Fall Quarter meeting on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The committee will review requests for Hine Fund grants and Augsburg Endowment grants at this meeting. All requests for financial grants should be directed to The Hine Fund and should be in the church office no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, October 14th. Agendas will be ready for members to pick up in the work room on Sunday, October 18th. Please call or email the Hine Fund secretary if you are unable to attend the meeting. The general purpose and intent of the Hine Fund is to "put into effect a ministry of Christian mercy and concern in meeting human needs as the Church thinks Jesus Christ Himself would have them met."

The purpose of the Augsburg Endowment Fund is “to provide for a perpetual, segregated endowment fund to support the ministries of Augsburg Lutheran Church and the worldwide church, all in the name of Jesus Christ. The Fund will provide members and friends of Augsburg an avenue to make contributions or planned gifts, which will support the Church’s ministries for generations.” Income from the Endowment Fund is distributed annually to support benevolence outside Augsburg, the Augsburg operating budget, and Augsburg capital improvements.

We keep you in prayer during our time apart. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or pastoralassociate@alcws.org

God’s work continues at Augsburg, and while we can’t gather in person, our hands can still help carry out that work wherever we are through our love and our resources. Because important ministries continue during our facilities closure, offerings can still be shared through any of these suggested options: drop it in the mail, use the bill pay services that your bank offers, or use Realm to give online. Visit our website—www.augsburglutheran-ws.org—and click on “Give Now” for more information. Thank you for all the ways that you support God’s work at Augsburg, your Stewardship Team.

Readings for next week: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Worship attendance for services last week: 232 views on YouTube.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Katherine Matador

Greeter

Kim Heiter

Lay Reader

Martha Claire Henzler

Assisting Minister

Paul Anders

Preaching

Pastor Carter

Quartet

Karen Kookan, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet



AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

845 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

E-mail addresses available at www.alcws.org

(336) 722-8144

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Kathy Barnes, Administrative Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation