



14th Sunday
after
Pentecost

September 6, 2020

*Please continue to care for yourself and your neighbor
by wearing your mask and maintaining safe social distancing
during worship.*

Confession

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

*P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that
confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that
trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the
Christ.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended
you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote
myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your
boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit
that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a
life obedient to your will and your way.**

*P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast
love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our
Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Prelude & 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.

Psalm of Praise

*P: O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

**C: The Lord has made known his salvation;
has revealed God's righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

God remembers his steadfast love and faithfulness . . .

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

*Sing praises to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of melody.*

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.*

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,**

for he is coming to redeem the earth.

**God will rule the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

**C: Our God and Lord, Your wisdom is beyond our
understanding; Your love beyond our apprehension.
Through the transforming power of the Spirit You continue
to reveal Your mercy to those to whom we are merciless and
you welcome into Your Kingdom those whom we shun. Do
not let us become discouraged with Your love. Rather, by**

the same Spirit, draw us more fully into Your mission, that we will experience the amazing fellowship destined through Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Entrance Hymn

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P: Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,

C: use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace.

Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.

Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,

by the courage, where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,

by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won.

Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel.

With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal.

Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun -

Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night,

by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all, and healing light,

by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one,

Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

Lesson

Jonah 3:1 - 4:11

After having initially turned down God's command to go to the great city Nineveh to preach about its destruction, and after having been thrown overboard from a ship and swallowed by a large fish, and after having repented in the belly of the fish and been thrown up on the shore the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was a very large city. It took three days to walk from one end of it to the other. When Jonah arrived he walked in the city for a whole day before he cried out, "In forty days Nineveh will be overthrown!"

The people of Nineveh believed God! They declared a solemn fast, and everyone, from infants to the aged, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, will eat anything. They will not feed, they will not drink water. People and animals will both be covered with sackcloth and cry mightily to God. Everyone will turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Then, who knows!? God may actually repent and change his mind!! He may turn away from his fierce anger so that we do not perish!"

When God saw how the people of Nineveh 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 Jonah was not happy with God's repentance. Jonah became angry. He prayed to the Lord saying, "O Lord! Didn't I say this was going to happen when I was still at home? This is why I ran away to Tarshish instead of coming here to Nineveh. I knew then that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. So 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 left the city and sat down east of the city. There he set up a small tent and sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

But the Lord God made a bush to grow over Jonah's head to shade him and save him from his discomfort. Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God called over a worm that attacked the bush, so that it immediately 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!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 145

*I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.*

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

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.*

**One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.**

*They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel Acclamation

P: Listen now for the Gospel;

All: Alleluia!

It is God's word that changes us;

Alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit,

**melt and break our hearts of stone
until we give our lives to God and God alone.**

Come, Holy Spirit,

**root in us God's living word,
that we may show the faithfulness of Christ our Lord.**

Come, Holy Spirit,

bind the broken, find the lost,

confirm in us the fire and love of Pentecost.

Listen now for the Gospel;

Alleluia!

It is God's word that changes us;

Alleluia!

Zimbabwean liturgical acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Jesus told this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who went out in the morning to hire laborers to work in his vineyard. He negotiated the usual daily wage with them and then sent them into his vineyard.

Then at about 9 o'clock that morning he saw other laborers idling standing around in the marketplace. So, he said to them, "Go work in my vineyard and I will give you whatever is righteous!"

And they went out to work.

Later in the day at both noon and 3 o'clock he went to the market and did the same with other laborers he found there with nothing to do.

Even later in the day, at about 5 o'clock, the vineyard owner went back to the marketplace and found more laborers just standing around. So 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, "Go work in my vineyard!"

An hour later, when the work day was over, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and pay them in this order – the ones who came to work last get paid first and the ones who came to work first get paid last."

When the laborers who were hired at 5 o'clock in the evening came up they were each paid the usual daily wage. When those who were hired at 6 o'clock in the morning saw this they assumed they would get much more but, they also received the usual daily wage.

So they grumbled about the owner of the vineyard saying, "These laborers you hired last only worked one hour, and you have made them equal to us who were bearing the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

To which the owner of the vineyard replied, “Friends, I am not being unrighteous with you am I? Didn’t you agree to work for me for the usual daily wage? So, now, take what is yours and go! I desire to give to the one who was last the same as I give to you. Is it not lawful for me to carry out my desires with what is mine? Or are you giving me the evil eye because I am good?”

In this way, the last will be first, and the first will be last.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon & Hymn of the Day

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For the fruits of all creation,

thanks be to God.

For his gifts to ev'ry nation,

thanks be to God.

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,**

future needs in earth's safe keeping,

thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,

God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor,

God's will is done.

**In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,**

in the harvests we are sharing,

God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,

thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,

thanks be to God.

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,**

most of all, that love has found us,

thanks be to God!

**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.**

Offering is Presented & Prayer

P: Let us Pray

C: In thanks for all the blessing of life, for work and rest, for food and shelter, for love and laughter, for beauty and harmony, we return these offerings to You, O God. We pray that our thanks is pleasing in Your sight, that what we offer is used again for sustenance and growth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Prayers

The LORD'S Prayer

Benediction & Dismissal

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*