

Pentecost 16, September 20, 2020

**Greeting** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Call to Worship** (From the first underlined verse, notice how the praise-giving alternates between “they” and “I.” *Everyone* will speak of God’s glory and power!)

Psalm 145:1-8 I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: With masked voices, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

**C: 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 Lord. Amen.**

P: 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! Led by the Holy spirit, live now in freedom to do God’s work in the world. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**      ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** (CCLI 706169)

WoV 771, ELW 733

*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!*

*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***

### **The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

***We Praise You, O God*** (CCLI 706169)

LBW 241, ELW 870

*We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

*With voices [HUMMING!] united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

**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.**

### **A summary of the Book of Jonah**

God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people they were about to be punished for their great sinfulness. But Jonah had no love for the Ninevites and went the other direction, taking a ship to Tarshish. God was not happy! He sent a great storm, and the ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors cried out that whoever had displeased God should throw himself overboard so God would relent. Jonah confessed and was thrown overboard, and immediately the storm ceased. Then God provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah. After three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, Jonah remembered God and prayed for deliverance. Then God spoke to the fish, and it vomited up Jonah on the shore.

God commanded Jonah again to go to Nineveh and deliver his message. So Jonah did: “In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!” The Ninevites listened and trusted God, and proclaimed a city-wide fast to show their repentance. *Everyone* repented! And God saw that and changed his mind about their destruction. And Jonah was furious! He yelled at God, “God! I knew it! I knew this was going to happen, that’s why I tried to run away. I knew you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and willing to forgive and not punish.” And God said, “Isn’t it right for me to be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 people who don’t know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?” [That’s the end of the book of Jonah.] -- Word of God, word of life!

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

**A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter (20:1-16)**

**Sermon** (page 5)

**Hymn of the Day** *Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor* (public domain) LBW 418  
*Sing to Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven, LBW 418, ELW 864*

*Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings,  
With your living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things;  
Comfort all its wide dominion with the healing of your wings.*

*Still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release;  
And the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease;  
And the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace.*

*Crown, O God, your own endeavor; cleave our darkness with your sword;  
Feed the faint and hungry peoples with the richness of your Word;  
Cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.*

**The Apostle's Creed** God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

**Sharing God's Peace** (in any appropriate way)

**Service of Holy Communion** (at St. John, first and third week of the month)

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Benediction**

**Sending Hymn**

***Before You, Lord, We Bow*** (public domain)

LBW 401, ELW 893

*Before you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns above,  
And rules the world below, boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to you, our King!*

*Earth, hear your Maker's voice; your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone.  
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified.*

**Dismissal** With joy and thanksgiving, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Note: An offering plate is at the end of the aisle if you wish to leave a gift. All donations are welcome!**

**If you wish to chat with family or friends after worship, please do so outside. Thanks!**