
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 20, 2020 - Time after Pentecost

“Are you envious because I am generous?”

[Matthew 20:15]



WELCOME

We're glad you chose to worship with us.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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.

PRELUDE

Gymnopedie

Eric Satie

BELL

Stand as you are able

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here. **You, O God, wash us clean.**

Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair -- ALL are washed away by grace. **You, O God, wash us clean.**

Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us. **You, O God, give us new life.**

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ. **You, O God, give us new life.**

Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone. **You, O God, give us new life.**

And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

**We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness ELW 733



1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

GREETING

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

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

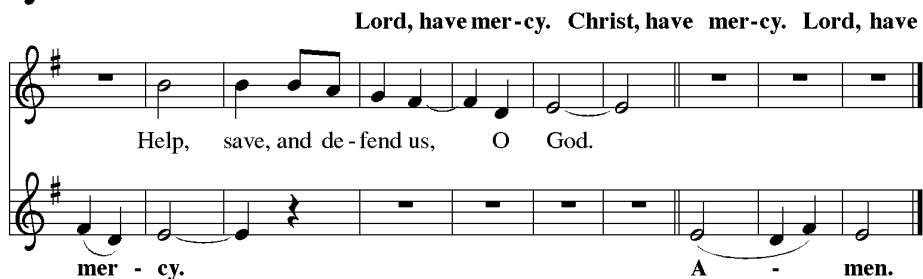
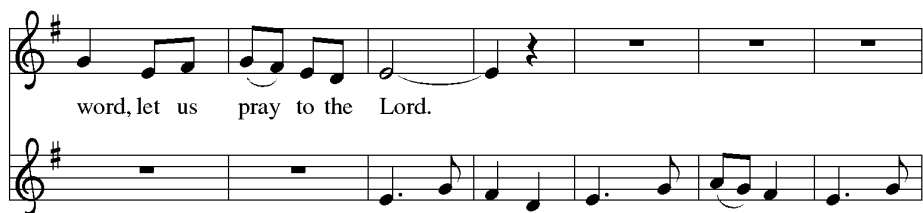
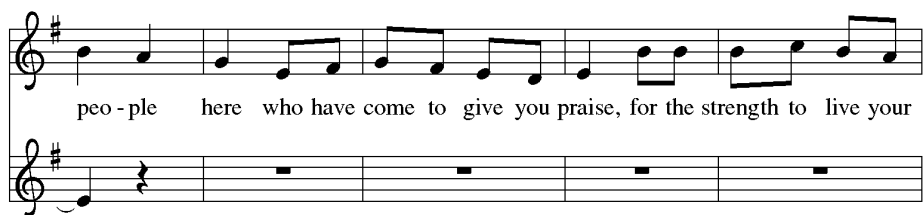
For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

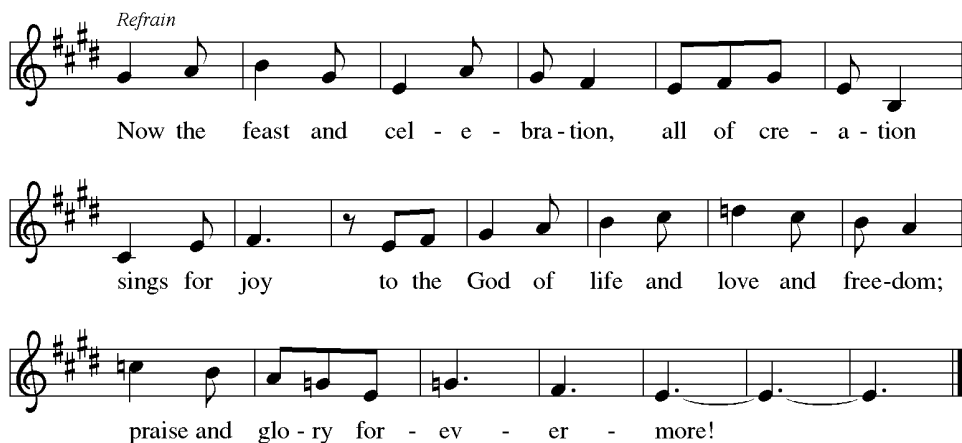
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

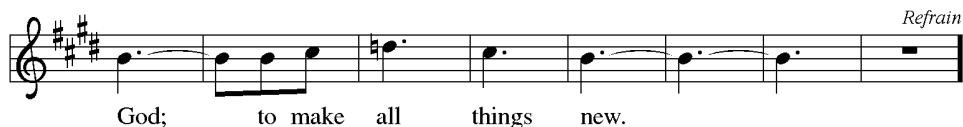
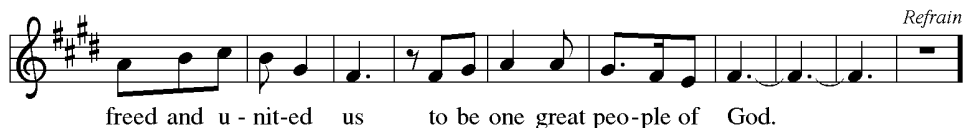
Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



SONG OF 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.

Sit

PSALM 145: 1-8

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

¹I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

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

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

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

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

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

- A** The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.
- C** Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 659

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

Stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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

(Peace Music In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful [Taizé])

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Stand as you are able

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Stand as you are able

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, with thanksgiving and unending joy we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven as they praise your glory for ever:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. **Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

SENDING PRAYER

We thank you, living God for your Son, who sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. **As Christ has loved us, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.**

Let us pray for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick from the coronavirus. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. **May God console them and grant them peace.**

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. **May God grant them**

courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Lord of Light

ELW 688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news,
heal the sick, share our bread with the hungry.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christ Lag in Todesbanden

J. S. Bach