

# + Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost +

“A TIME OF MERCY”

20 September 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church + McPherson, Kansas

*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 MUSIC

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*in bulletin*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## LITANY

Psalm 145

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.

## READINGS:

**Jonah 3:10–4:11**

**Philippians 1:21-30**

## GOSPEL

The gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

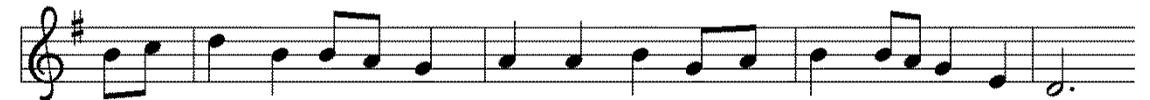
## How Small Our Span of Life



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:  
2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;  
3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,  
4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch - ing of a breath,  
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.  
to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.  
il - lu - min - ing our pil - grim - age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with - in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,  
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,  
You filled your cross - closed years with love; you loved us to the end  
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass - ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.  
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.  
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.  
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional

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## SERMON

### HYMN

*“How Small Our Span of Life”*

*in bulletin*

### CREED

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, 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 THE CHURCH

*in bulletin*

#### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to greet one another with a sign of peace.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we many come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

*in bulletin*

#### BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

#### DISMISSAL

God is here!

**Spread the word!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

### SENDING MUSIC

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all creation.

**Amen.**

Jesus said, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

*Matthew 9:13*

For the love of God is broader

**Than the measures of our mind;**

And the heart of the Eternal

**Is most wonderfully kind.**

But we make this love too narrow

**By false limits of our own.**

And we magnify its strictness

**With a zeal God will not own.**

*“There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

*Verse 3 + ELW 588*

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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 in freedom and newness of life to do God’s work in the world.

**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord 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.**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*If you are communing virtually at home, hold up your bread and wine at the appropriate times during the words of institution below.*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: **Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. Through him, with him, in him, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and 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.**

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

**Amen! Thanks be to God!**

*At home, share this meal eating and drinking, saying these words to others or yourself:  
**The body of Christ, given for you / me! The blood of Christ, shed for you / me!***

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life, and we pray that you your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

Drawn together in the merciful 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 the sake of 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, especially where people serve to bring an end to racism and social injustice. Inspire local and national leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and community 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. Bring an end to the Covid19 pandemic, and grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, especially those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Time of silence for reflection and additional 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.**