



16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020
9:30 am



Bethel Lutheran Church
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Rev. Trina Johnsten

A congregation of the Montana Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy. As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

LH 534

Baptized Into The Death Of Christ

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of 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 sins,
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
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, 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.

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

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 full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

(ELW 172)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Children’s Message

Rev. Trina Johnsten

Sermon

Rev. Trina Johnsten

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 588

There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 INTERCESSION

Response: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

INSTALLATION OF CALL COMMITTEE

Patty Braget, Jim Carlson, Ava Fossen, Tim Lightbourne, Lynn Ryan and Earl Terwilliger.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We are so very blessed with the continued support of this congregation during this time of physical distancing. For those who are gathering in worship today, the offering plate is placed on the table as you entered. For those who are joining us from home, you are encouraged to mail in your pledge to the church, to give on-line, if you aren't already, or to give through an arrangement you can set up through your bank. Thank you for your faithful support.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray, God of all goodness,
**generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that,
as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Today we will be coming forward for communion. The ushers will help guide you. Please keep the six foot physical distancing in mind as we move forward. We will begin with the south side of the sanctuary. Families may come up

together. Remove your mask and use the hand sanitizer provided. The first table will have covered cups with bread, gluten free wafers are marked with a "GF". You may then remove the lid and take the bread/wafer. A garbage is by the table for you to drop the cup and lid into. The second table has the wine and white grape juice offered. You may remove the lid and repeat as you did with the bread. A garbage is available for your use. You may then reattach your mask and use the hand sanitizer provided.

Small children or adults who are not receiving the sacrament are welcome to use the prayer below for a blessing and silent meditation.

Jesus, my savior and friend, I believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and truly present to us here and now. Since I cannot now receive you in the bread and wine, I remember and trust your words, "This is my body; this is my blood—given for you." I love you and ask you to come spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Keep all of us strong in faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now, and unto life eternal, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,
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 the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 537

On Our Way Rejoicing

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Lynn Ryan
Lay Assistant	John Blank
Usher/Greeter	Patty Braget
Projectionist	Dean Amor
Tech	Greg Grosenick
Counters	Patty Braget and Kaleb Stringer

Flowers are given today by John and Terry Korpela in celebration of their granddaughters birthdays. Tess Korpela-Buchler and Khyber Rose Korpela.

Announcements

Today at Bethel we celebrate the 16th Sunday after Pentecost.

New Bible Study Opportunity!

Pastor Trina will be offering a weekly Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at 7:00 pm (except the second Thursday of the month when Hope Circle meets). We will look at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday together, and because each

week stands alone, you can come and go as you are available and not feel like you've missed anything. No experience necessary! For the time being, we will meet via Zoom. Please email or call the office if you'd like to receive the Zoom link.

New Permanent Email Address for Bethel Pastor

Please update your contact list by adding the new permanent email address: bethelgf.pastor@gmail.com. This is especially important if you are the chair of a committee or the contact for one of Bethel's many groups. Pastor Trina wants to know as much about us as possible, so include this new email address whenever you are communicating with others about Bethel business, events and programs.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Monday 9/21

- Boy Scouts meet 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 9/22

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Wednesday 9/23

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am

Thursday 9/24

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 9/25

- Bethel Office Closed

Upcoming Events

Sunday 9/27

- 9:30 Worship with communion

Monday 9/28

- Boy Scouts meet 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 9/29

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Wednesday 9/30

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 10:00 am

Thursday 10/1

- Bible Study with Pastor Trina Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday 10/2

- Bethel Office Closed

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