

LECTIONARY 25

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



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.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

527 WASHINGTON STREET

READING, PA 19601

(610) 374-4861

WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG



Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ persons into all facets of congregational

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

P Presiding Minister **A** Assisting Minister **C** Congregation

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Anne Krentz Organ

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Faithful God,

C **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. 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 in freedom and newness

to do God's work in the world.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

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.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957
 Text and music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #221. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

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.

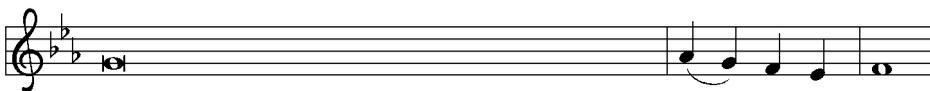
KYRIE

A 

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C 

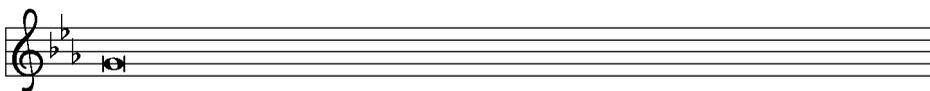
Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

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.

C 

Lord, have mer - cy.

A 

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

G 

Lord, have mercy.

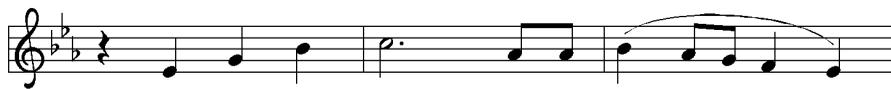
A 

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

G 

A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



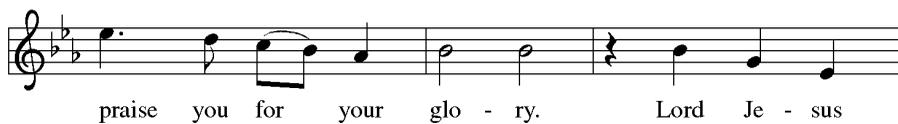
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



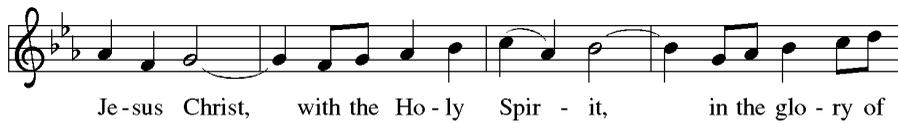
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



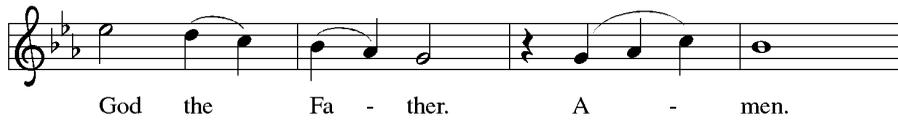
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P 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.
- C **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?

After the reading:

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

After the reading:

- A** Word of God, word of life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY 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.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
- C** Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial for - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953
 Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Music © Oxford University Press.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

A Drawn together in the 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. We pray for Christ
Episcopal and Fr. John; for Christ Lutheran, Pr. Katie and Pr. Art; for Trinity
Lutheran-Gouglersville and Pr. Debora; for Trinity's staff – Pr. Alan, Deaconess
Deborah, Karen, Peter, Matt, Rachel, Dave and Dee; and for Common Ground,
Pr. Tom and Michael. Strengthen churches that struggle in this time of
pandemic, granting patience, courage, and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence, especially to our country in these times of strife and unrest. Inspire leaders with creativity, gentleness, and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers . Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A You graciously call us to work in your kingdom. Keep us faithful to our calling to labor in your name. Today we pray especially for Katie, Herb & Austin; Ruth; Bill & Charlie; Jim, Amy, Will & Grace; and Craig & Robin. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need especially CJ, Guy, Fred, Dick, Luther, Chris, Darryl, Jenn, Jay, Ina, Grete, Pete, Kate, Erica, Tom, Brink, Richard, David, Darlene, Jody, and all who have been exposed to or infected by Covid-19. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A In these isolating times, we pray for all who are homebound, in care facilities, or living alone. We remember Joan G., Sarah, Thelma, Joan H., Betty & Karl; Ruth, Walter, Tom, and Dorothy and pray that you surround them with your loving Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

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

C **Amen**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING MEDITATION

ANTHEM

Bourrée

Georg Philipp Telemann

Ed. and arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

A Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN

636 How Small Our Span of Life

KINGSFOLD



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

Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #221.

Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet March

Jeremiah Clarke

Ed. & arr. by S. Drummond Wolff



We thank Wayne and Elsa Heintzeman for reading scripture and leading us in the Lord's Prayer this week.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #221

Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.