



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 MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed. [The Center for Disease Control" Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks."

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 20, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemchurch.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Meditation on Psalm 42:

“As the Deer Pants for the Water, So My Soul Longs for You O Lord”

Douglas Wagner

All Creatures of Our God & King

Gregg Sewell

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † 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 transgression

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 presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

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.**

WORD

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Jonah 3:10--4:11

The assembly is seated.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then 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.

⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

779

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

**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

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

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. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ and the Gospel.

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. Bring an end to wildfires, and strengthen those battling them, and comfort those who grieve the loss of home or life. Raise up responders and relief efforts for those made homeless by Hurricane Sally. 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 police are threatened, or where races live in fear. 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, those who are providing care during this pandemic, students and school staffs, and all who are sick... 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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:
we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

We bless you, O God, for your Word:
we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:

we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

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

**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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(8:00) ANTHEM

Grace Us Lord

Joseph Martin

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Mothering God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

How Small Our Span of Life

636

- 1 How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.
- 2 And yet our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.
While suns and stars spin endlessly
through depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,
you hold us in your grace.
- 3 O Christ, you left eternity
to plunge in time's swift stream,

to share the shortness of our span,
our mortal lives redeem.
You filled your cross-closed years with love;
you loved us to the end
and touch us with your risen life
that ours may time transcend.

- 4 We thank you, God, for kindling faith
that lights our transient years,
illumining our pilgrimage
through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that sees a life beyond
the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine,
that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923. Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.
Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Carillon Toccata

Douglas Wagner

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Fay Sausser, Kim O'Donnell

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Dizenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefich, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Lou Messina	Krista Sausser
Cantor(s)	Audrey Christ	Krista Sausser
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Anita Vickers	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Altar Guild	Alberta Hudson & Linda Collins	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Will Timm	Rabekah CdeBaca
Cantor(s)	Jonathan Valori & Will Timm	Rabekah CdeBaca
Guides	Deb Reed	Jim Zeiglebein
	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote

**Altar Guild
Counters**

**Alberta Hudson & Linda Collins
Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, and Janet Sattizahn**

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ATLAR VASES are to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Roy, Jr., and Jodi Ochenrider, by Roy, Karen, Eric, Chris, and Kailei.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FLOOR VASES are to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of the birthday of Mary Schafer, by the Melvin Schafer family.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone for your generous donations for our **God's Work, Our Hands** project. Because you opened your hearts and your pockets, we will be sending **Lutheran World Relief's COVID 19 Response** initiative \$1,565.00! Know that because of your donations, many people will be better able to equip themselves to be protected from the coronavirus. Fifteen hundred and five dollars will go a long way to provide face masks, personal hygiene kits, and emergency medical supplies. Thank you so very much! Together we are making our world a better place!

WE WILL OBSERVE HARVEST HOME ON OCTOBER 4th with a special offering of money and food for our Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. You are invited to bring items of non-perishable food and place them in the grocery cart in the lobby or you may drop these items off at the church office on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Your gifts will help to provide food to about 180 families who need assistance with meals and receive food at the Pantry each month.

THE ANNUAL CROP WALK sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches will be held on Sunday, October 4 behind the Walk-In Center, with registration and devotions beginning at 12:45, and the walk starting at 1:00. OR – during this pandemic you may walk on your own, or even on a treadmill. Walkers at the event or on their own contribute money and gather additional sponsors, with the money going to alleviate hunger locally (25% goes to our Council of Churches' Food Pantry), nationally, and globally, through Church World Service (the hunger ministry of the World Council of Churches). Please sign up with Shirly Shackleton or Cheryl Miller, and turn your money into them (or see them if you would rather gather contributions through the CROP website). As a congregation with some of the most walkers, let us have fun, be a visible presence in the community, and support the anti-hunger ministry of the Council of Churches and CROP.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be held at 1:00 on Sunday, October 11. Critters of all kinds are welcome to receive a blessing in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi (his witness is commemorated on October 4). And of course, please leash or restrain your pets since there will be others there (and the pastor may bless snarling or snake-like critters from a distance).

MUSIC NEWS. The organ pipe repainting project is nearing! The pipes will be taken out on the week of October 12th, 2020.

FREE DRIVE-THRU NARCAN DISTRIBUTION. A Narcan can treat individuals who overdose in emergency situations. There will be two free drive-thru distributions:

- Friday, September 25th, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Shenandoah Community Ambulance Association (229 North Main Street, Shenandoah, PA 17976).
- Friday, October 2nd, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at 410 North Center Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 (rear parking lot). For questions call 570-826-2483.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
 10:30am Worship
 2:00pm Schuylkill Mission District at Christ Gordon

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Property Committee Meeting

THURSDAY 12:30pm Blood Drive in Social Hall
 3:30pm COVID-19 Task Force Meeting (Via Zoom)

HOLY COMMUNION WILL RESUME ON OCTOBER 4, unless there is a spike in Covid infections due to Labor Day activities and the return of many students and staff to school. There will be several changes after this long time when out of safety, we have forgone the Lord's Supper for many months:

- We will use wafers instead of bread, and not offer the cup, in accordance with ecumenical guidelines for worship, in order to minimize contact and the potential spread of the virus (the pastor will use sanitized hands for distribution).
- Holy Communion will be offered every week, following the norm of both Martin Luther and our "green hymnal" of 1978. In adult Sunday School, the Worship and Music Committee, and Church Council, people have been wanting to move toward weekly communion, but although it will now be offered each Sunday, not everyone has to take it. This change is one of moving from people desiring the Lord's Supper every week but not being able to receive it, to people who desire it every week receiving it while others spend a few extra minutes in prayer.
- The table will be extended by arranging for volunteers to deliver the host to some of our homebound members on their way home. Volunteers will be needed so that especially during this pandemic when more people cannot attend worship, those at home will be able to receive the Supper. Volunteers to deliver the wafers will receive an orientation, and a very brief order of service that will be conducted at the door or another place outside (not in the home!) when they deliver Communion to their neighbors.