

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020

PRELUDE

Jubilate Deo

J. Wayne Kerr

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that attentive to Your Word, we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Gracious God, have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (*from Psalm 145*)

P I will exalt You, my God the King; I will praise Your name forever and ever.

C Every day I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever.

P Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.

C One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts.

P They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.

C They will tell of the power of Your awesome works, and I will proclaim Your great deeds.

P They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

C The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

OPENING HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice.
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done.
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Lord God, heavenly Father, You show loving-kindness to all Your people. Since we cannot stand before You relying on our own abilities, help us to trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:21-30

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

P Alleluia. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

C Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 12:9)

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹"For 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
for all things living, created good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve You
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with You,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for Your children,
by Your wise guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know Your care.

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Nothing in creation is outside Your concern, mighty God. In Your mercy, tend to it all. We pray especially for places ravaged by flooding, wildfire, and other environmental disasters. Help us to care for all You have made. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Where we find envy and create divisions, You provide enough for everyone. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and relief agencies. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P You call us to work in Your vineyard and equip us to serve in Your name. We give thanks for all pastors, teachers and lay leaders, especially for Ms. Katie Vogt as she is commissioned into the Lutheran teaching ministry at The Chapel School. Grant fruitful labor to all and opportunity to those seeking work. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P You are compassionate and generous, even beyond our expectations. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, especially all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...*(pause)*. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P We praise You for the generations that have declared Your power, living for Christ. Give us faithfulness to follow in their path until You call us to join them in 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, who taught us to pray:
C **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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting – Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the master calleth; rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?

Some take up His task in morning, to their Lord responding soon;
some are called in heat of midday, others late in afternoon.
Even as the sun is setting, some are sent into the fields,
there to gather in the bounty that God's Word so richly yields.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling

Sigvart Hofland

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Miriam Mathew

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