



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church- ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving”

16th Sunday after Pentecost *Service of the Word for online worship* September 20, 2020

NOTE: Bold text indicates worshipers’ response

GATHERING

WELCOME and MUTUAL MINISTRY

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 145)

ONE: We will speak about you, for you are our God, the divine one we want to rule our lives

ALL: Every day we want to honor you in what we do and say.

ONE: As a people of God we want to teach every generation about you.

ALL: We want all generations to know of your love, power and mercy.

ONE: We long to have a faith so strong that no matter where we are we will speak your name

ALL: We long to have a deeper understanding of who you are, and who we are in your people

ONE: We know others who need to hear the Good News about you O Lord, so we WILL speak of you.

* P: The grace of the 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 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.**

GROWING

Jonah is a prophet sent by God to the Ninevites. After his short sermon to the people, 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?

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

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.**

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

The Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter, **All: 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 Mary Eide

MUSIC TO MEDITATE ON *Listen and be filled with God’s peace.*

Jennifer Kinblom

BIBLE / SMALL CATECHISM MILESTONE

P: Children, when your parents brought you to the baptismal font, they promised to place in your hands the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, to nurture your lives in faith and in prayer. On that same day, this or another congregation pledged to help your parents fulfill that promise. Today, we join together to take an important step towards fulfilling our pledge to you and your parents.

For 3rd Graders this is a special time in your life because you are getting old enough to read the Bible by yourself, to talk with your family, friends, teachers and people at church about the Bible. For 3rd and 4th Graders, the Small Catechism you are receiving is a timeless faith tool that has been used in the Lutheran Church for almost 500 years.

The Bible and Small Catechism you are receiving is meant to be read on a regular basis. Do not be afraid to make notes in them with questions you have or discoveries you have made. Feel free to ask questions, too.

Parents or other family member, please give your child their Bible or Small Catechism and repeat after me: **“This is the Word of the Lord.”** Students, please respond by repeating after me: **“Thank you, and thanks be to God.”**

P: Parents/family members, please place your hands on the head of your child as we pray. All others gathered, please raise your hand towards these children and let us pray... **ALL: Gracious God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles, the parents/family members who give them, and the children who receive them. Speak your words to them, so that they may know the promise of your love, trust the goodness of your grace, follow the way that leads from darkness into light, and live as your children, now and forever. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

NOTE: Remember that you can give to God's ministry here at Shepherd by making a one time or monthly offering at our website (www.bothem.org). Go to GIVE tab which sends you to a secured site. These gifts WILL be noted in your giving statements. You can also mail in offerings to 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Generous God, **thank you for all you have given to us in life, and for teaching us how to be generous like you. We give our financial offerings as a sign of our trust in you, and our desire to be part of what you are doing in the world. Bless the offering we give of our time, and talents, and treasures. Amen**

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (P: Lord in your mercy... **All: Hear our prayer**)

* LORD'S PRAYERS

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **Sunday School lessons for 3s to 6th graders** can be found at www.sothem.org (see Faith Formation/Sunday School tab) Need more information? Contact either Chris Miller at chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com or Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com

* BLESSING May God be merciful to you and bless you; may the light of God's face shine upon you, and give you his peace. In the name of God, the Father, † Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN ELW 537, LBW 260 *"On Our Way Rejoicing"*

* DISMISSAL Go in peace knowing Jesus Christ is with you always. **Thanks be to God.**

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SCHEDULE /ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday	10am	Worship
Tuesday	4-6pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	2pm	LIVE with God on Facebook (short worship)
		Confirmation students this is a "Learn at Home" week
Friday	10am-12pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	10am	Worship

Sunday worship live on Facebook and posted later at www.sothem.org

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On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

The musical score is written for two voices and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The score is divided into several systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

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