

Sunday Worship
September 24, 2023
Time After Pentecost



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

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

PRELUDE

Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Arr. Organ

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be God, the One who forms us **+** Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: **You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow You. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and Your creation, forgive us.**

For the ways we turn away from You and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to You and set us on the right path; in the name of

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #583

Take My Life, That I May Be

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness 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

KYRIE Red hymnal #120

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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 mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Red hymnal #121

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

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

R: ¹⁰When 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.

^{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?"

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

R: ¹I will exalt You, my God and king, and bless Your name forever and ever.

C: ²**Every day will I bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.**

- R: ³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to Your greatness.
- C: ⁴**One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your power.**
- R: ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty and all Your marvelous works.
- C: ⁶**They shall tell of the might of Your wondrous acts, and I will recount Your greatness.**
- R: ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of Your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of Your righteousness.
- C: ⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

R: 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.

- R: The Word of the Lord
- C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #401

C: **Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew. It's Your leading that we're needing, help us to follow You. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ. Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 20:1-16**

C: **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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Dale Schaefer

HYMN Red Hymnal #724

All Who Love and Serve Your City

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

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

PRAYERS *(Response after each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God’s Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #674 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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 *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

BLESSING

P: The God of glory, ✚ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #669

Rise Up, O Saints of God

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:
“Serving Christ through serving others.”**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Arr. Petersen

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Sue Coon in memory of Gary.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion’s prayer chain may be submitted
using a ‘Prayer Request’ card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Communion Assist	May Fischvogt
Reader	Chuck Drake
Usher	Garry Yunker
Greeters	Chuck & Erma Swanson

ATTENDANCE 9/16 & 17: 113
Unified Giving 9/16 & 17: \$3,585.00

Sunday School: Adult 20
Youth 5 Kids 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIMPLY GIVE: The Needy Basket Food Pantry is participating in the Meijer *Simply Give* program at the Troy store now through September 30. The program encourages customers to purchase \$10 *Simply Give* donation cards, which are then converted into Meijer food-only gift cards for use by Needy Basket.

In addition to purchasing cards at the Troy store, donations can also be sent directly to Needy Basket at 330 South Fifth St., Tipp City, OH 45371, for submission on a double match day. The *Simply Give* program is a way for Meijer customer to support the food banks and pantries that feed families in need in their own communities.

