



**THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,
LECTIONARY 25
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

Oh, Jonah! So ready to watch fire and brimstone destroy Ninevah. But surprise! After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God did what God does: mercy. Jonah objected and sulked. He isn't envious – he is ticked off, furious, that God would show mercy after Jonah went to all that trouble to proclaim judgment.

Just who does God think He is, anyway?

Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

GATHERING

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit C **Amen.**

P Let us pray *Silence for reflection*

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you

and worthily magnify your holy name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. C **Amen.**

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

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 transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit.
Live in freedom and peace to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

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.**

Let us pray: - *Silence*- Almighty and eternal God, your loving kindness has no end!
Make us strong in grace to live out our faith in the Gospel, and give us hearts that
embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



The Readings

The first reading is from Jonah, the 4th chapter.

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!**

Silence for Reflection

We read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.**

Silence for reflection

The second reading is from Philippians the first chapter.

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.

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16 is offered

[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 our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In confidence and trust, let us confess our faith:

**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**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you choose to give generously, in ways and more than we can imagine. Help us to rejoice that you provide with an open, merciful hand, and do not judge us as we judge on another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes, tiny worms 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, care and compassion toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with those whose lives and homes are in peril from fire and storm, from wind and wave. Strengthen all who work to protect and rebuild. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us in peace as we prepare to vote. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators and peacekeepers. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. 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. Hear our prayers for all yearning for healing, longing for justice, and all those whose needs we bring before you: (*Intercessions may be offered after each petition, in silence or aloud.*)

-all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,
and those unable to receive care...

-all who mourn, living with fear and loss and grief...

-families working to meet the needs of work and home...

-those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. 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.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks out loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, or using the QR code with your smartphone. Offerings can also be gathered and mailed.



Then continue:

Let us pray. *Silence* Holy God, we come before in thanksgiving:
**You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

A Brief Silence

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words 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.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather in-house and wherever we are
sheltering in place, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one
another and our community.*

POSTLUDE

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*'make a leg' is term from the 17th into the 18th c for an elegant bow made by a man.