



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19 and 20, 2020*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of Holy Communion

Significance of the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Hymn Variations on *Slane*

(Young et al)

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as able.)

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

(The assembly stands.)

Apostolic Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

(The assembly sits.)

Word

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11

A reading from Jonah:

10 When God saw what they 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. 2 He 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. 3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then 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.

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

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

Psalm 145:1-8

- 1 I 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.
- 3 Great 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.
- 5 I 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.
- 7 They 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.

A reading from Philippians:

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, 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, 28 and 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. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— 30 since 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.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
to give heed to what is said by your Son**

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And 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?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When 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.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, '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.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

(The assembly remains seated.)

Hymn of the Day

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

(The assembly stands.)

Apostles' Creed

**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

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

(Brief silence)

A: 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, especially those around our world who cannot worship you in freedom. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, council members, volunteers, committee members. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence, including in the Middle East, for people who live under dictatorships, for people who are oppressed. We especially pray for our nation in this election year when divisions have increased. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. We pray for this community of faith as we begin another year of faith formation learning. Be with our Sunday School students, our confirmation students, our adults seeking to continue learning, and those who will be teaching and leading them in conversation. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your
mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared Interlude on *Forest Green* (Manz)

(The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things
and renewing the face of the earth. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for
all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of
him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: *We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers and Assistants, and Confirmation Teachers and Guides

(Those to be installed come forward.)

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: United with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are joined in God's mission for the life of the world. We are called to that mission in our daily lives and in the ministries we share as the church of God.

Today it is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of education and confirmation.

(The presiding minister addresses those beginning and continuing service.)

Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, as you carry out the ministry of education and confirmation in our congregation?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

(The assembly stands.)

P: People of God, I ask you:
Will you support these, your sisters and brothers, in their service, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Response: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P: Let us pray. O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. Bless those who serve as Sunday School and Confirmation Teachers, Assistants, and Guides. Help us to study your word and engage your world, that together we may grow in knowledge and love, pursue what is good, and seek to do your will; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

(The assembly responds: “Amen.”)

(Those installed for service are blessed.)

P: Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

(The assembly responds: “Amen.”)

(The assembly and those installed are seated.)

Confirmation Rite of Enrollment

(The catechumens to be enrolled and parents come forward.)

D: I present the students to be enrolled as catechumens in the discipline leading to growth in Christ within the community of the Church, and to Affirmation of Baptism / Confirmation.

(The presiding minister addresses those to be enrolled.)

P: In the community of God’s people, you are learning from the Word God’s loving purpose for you and all creation.

Do you desire now to reflect more deeply on baptism through study of the Holy Scriptures and the Catechism, and to join with us in a life of prayer and service?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help me.

(The assembly stands.)

P: Parents and all assembled here as people of God, I ask you: will you help this new catechumen to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ within this household of faith?

Response: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant grace to our catechumens and bless them. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your Word. Form them by your hand. With all your people may they bear witness to your grace, and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(The assembly responds: "Amen.")

(The assembly is seated.)

(The presiding minister addresses the catechumens.)

P: You have heard the holy and saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now receive the sign of that gospel on your body and in your heart, that you may know the Lord and the power of his resurrection.

Receive the (+) sign of the cross, a sign of God's endless love and mercy for you.

(After the sign of the cross has been received, the assembly responds:)

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

(Parents accept a Bible for presentation. Parents present the Bible to the catechumen as the presiding minister says:)

P: Receive this Bible for your learning and growth in faith. May God's life-giving word inspire you and make you wise.

(The enrolled catechumen is blessed.)

P: God bring you in peace and joy to the fullness of life in Christ.

(The assembly responds: “Amen.”)

(The enrolled catechumen and parents are seated.)

Rite of Presentation of Bibles

(The presiding minister addresses parents of Sunday School students.)

P: As you presented your children to receive the gift of baptism, you were entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with them among God’s faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to continue to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do, and we ask God to help us.

(The presiding minister addresses the assembly:)

P: People of God, do you promise to support our children and pray for them in their life in Christ?

Response: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

(Students receiving new Sunday School Bibles are asked to stand.)

(The presiding minister says:)

P: Receive this Bible.
Hear God's word with us.
Learn and tell its stories.
Discover its mysteries.
Honor its commandments.
Rejoice in its good news.

(The assembly stands.)

P: Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you speak to us through the holy scriptures. Grant that we, with our children, may hear, read, learn, and inwardly digest them, that comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

(The assembly responds: "Amen.")

(The presiding minister addresses the children.)

P: May God's life-giving word inspire you and make you wise.

(The assembly is seated.)

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

