

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey



*My burden is light.*

Matthew 11:30

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**      **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation**      **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation**      **therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation**        **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**        **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain:* Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain.*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

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**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor Lord God, heavenly Father,  
since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done,  
help us 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

### *Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6 – 9*

- 6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;
- 7 let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
- 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading:**

**Philippians 1:12 – 14, 19 – 30**

- <sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,<sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.<sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .
- <sup>19</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,<sup>20</sup> as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.<sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.<sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.<sup>24</sup> But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.<sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,<sup>26</sup> so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.
- <sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,<sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,<sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*After the reading:*

Lector      This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**  
**These things are written that you may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor      The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty beginning at verse one.  
Congregation      **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- <sup>1</sup> [Jesus said] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.<sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.<sup>3</sup> And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,<sup>4</sup> and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.'<sup>5</sup> So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.<sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?'<sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'<sup>8</sup> And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'<sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.<sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.<sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,<sup>12</sup> 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.'<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.'<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last."

*After the reading:*

Pastor      This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Congregation      **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying*

1.     **Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “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”?**
2.     **If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say he died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.**
3.     **If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, Offering life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.**
4.     **Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying And the master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I, Send me, send me!”**

## SERMON

- 1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me;  
Patiently Jesus is waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.  
Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home.**
- 2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, Mercies for you and for me?  
Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home.**
- 3. O, for the wonderful love he has promised, Promised for you and for me;  
Though we have sinned, there is mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me.  
Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## LITANY (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**



Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *All You Works of God, Bless the Lord*

- 1. All you works of God, bless the Lord!  
All you angels, now bless the Lord;  
Come, you heavens and pow'rs that be,  
Praise the Lord and His majesty:**

***Refrain***    **Raise your voices high, praise and magnify  
All you works of God, bless the Lord!  
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify  
All you works of God, bless the Lord!**

- 2. Sing you sun and you moon above,  
Stars of heaven, now sing His love;  
Dew and showers, you winds that blow,  
Heat and fire, you ice and snow:**
- 3. Frost of winter with song so cold,  
Dews of summer, your song unfold;  
Light and darkness, you day and night,  
Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright:**

- 1. Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,  
All you green things that grow on earth;  
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,  
Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales:**

***Refrain*    Raise your voices high, praise and magnify  
All you works of God, bless the Lord!  
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify  
All you works of God, bless the Lord!**

- 2. Come, humanity, sing along,  
Sing, you people of God a song;  
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,  
Join, you spirits and souls at rest:**
- 3. Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;  
All you humble, His praise impart;  
God the Father and Son adore  
Bless the Spirit forevermore!**