

Salem Lutheran Church

3825 Norrisville Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 ~ 410.962.6803

www.Salemjarrettsville.org

Pastor Betty Lou's Mobile Phone ~ 443.465.6668

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 ~ 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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

GATHERING HYMN

Blessing and Honor

ELW 854 verses 1 & 2

Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r,
wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won,
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne!

Let all the heavens resound with his name;
let all the earth sing his glory and fame.
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flow'r
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r;
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, alt.

Music: Mattias Keller, 1813-1875

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord and Savior, 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

PSALM 145:1-8

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Spoken together

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-6

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord given to you. **ALL: Praise to you O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 588 verses 1 & 4

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.
Music: North American, 19th Century

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

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Jesus, we believe you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love You above all things and we desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally,

come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as You are already there, and because of You we are united with You in death and in life. Never permit us to be separated from You. Amen.

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**

SENDING

BLESSING

Loving God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537 verses 1 & 2

On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

+++++ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER LIST+++++

A Special Thank you to Ruth Phoebus, Lynn and Nick Cox for providing vocal accompaniment with our hymns today! And, thank you, to Mark Hoefler as the lector for this day!

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of our congregation during these unprecedented times. As it becomes clear that we're in this phase for a longer haul, we want to say a particular thanks for your faith, your generosity, and your perseverance. Your faithful stewardship of all God's gifts is the heart of disciple-making and neighbor-loving.

Outdoor Evening Service with Holy Communion is scheduled for October 4th. Please mark your calendars for the next one!

OBD Casseroles totaled 21 for the month of September. Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and your generosity.

Salem's Annual Craft Fair and Yard Sale is postponed this year due to concerns with the coronavirus.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Brenda Baker, Family and Friends of Dan Hess, Kimberley, Donna Glorioso, Family and Friends of Carolyn Whelan, Family and Friends of Lee Hoos, John Bragg, Barb Vogel, Jenny, Jenny's mom and sister Donna, Norma Knudsen, Anne Mills, Rachel's baby girl Diana, Capt'n Jim McMahan, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Karen, Donna Miller, Laura Riley, Judy Newsome, Phil Kulinski, Bruce Greer, Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, Dorothy Portera, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Sandy Barthel, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Thelma Preisinger, Steve Sussan, Betty Burnet, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret and Jerry Shank, Jim McNicholas, Aunt Marie, Joan Evans, Steve Norman, Austin Phoebus, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Lennard Beecher, Jumela Beecher, Seth Bates, Steve White, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dan Gnau, Paula Feldman, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Jim Bair, Craig Perry Beel, Joyce Craig, Aston Dean, Kattie Hale, Carolyn Lynch, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Please contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates concerning the prayer list.

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