

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 E. SUPERIOR ST., DULUTH, MINNESOTA

September 20, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

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

**PRELUDE** *Mass Pour Le Convents: Plein jeu, Fugue sur la Trompette, Recit de Chromhorne*

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)  
Rachael Kresha, organist

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who extends an invitation to the Waters, the Word, and the Meal.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Sometimes we divide our lives between church and world,  
between Sunday and the rest of the days,  
but You, O God, are Lord over all our days.

**Forgive us when we fail to be bearers of Christ in our daily lives.**

**Forgive us when our hands fail to be an extension of your grace.**

**Forgive us when our words hurt rather than heal.**

**Forgive us when we forget that we have been forgiven and set free  
to be your forgiving people in your world.**

Deeply rooted in a boundless God beyond measure,

Draw sustenance from the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Be renewed in hope and filled with the Spirit

so that you may accept God's invitation to be Christ's body in the world.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN #720 *We Are Called*



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

## **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**

Generous One, your giving knows no bounds. You invite us to share in your goodness without envy, that we too may come to embody your generosity. Through Christ who gave himself for all.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

**FIRST READING** Jonah 3:10—4:11

*read by Candy Madich*

<sup>10</sup>When 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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.**

**SECOND READING** Philippians 1:21-30

*read by Lee Hanson*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <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 for you. <sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>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,<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup> 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**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

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

**GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the

usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <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 the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

**HYMN OF THE DAY #678 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***



1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:  
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,  
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.  
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;  
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;  
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.  
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.  
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind me:

**I AM Created by an ever-present, loving God,  
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus  
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,  
Grounded in community,  
Free to struggle, grow and expand,  
Compelled to reach out in response,  
Renewed in hope each day.**

God, speak these words to me today, plant them within me, that I may find my identity in you. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

*or*

Bless we the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God!**

## THE PEACE

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

## GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION

Stacy Jutila

## OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Air (from Orchestral Suite #3)* J.S. Bach (1685-1750); arr. L. Latham  
Kristin Sande, violin; Byron Klimek, cello; Karen Sande, piano

## OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,  
You extend an invitation to offer ourselves in response to your goodness.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table,  
and which we share in your world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7*

While we are a scattered community today, we remain one body in Christ, rooted and held together by the ever-present love of God. As with the Israelites in the wilderness,

God watches over us even as we are apart, providing what is needed to sustain us on the journey.

It is often through the ordinary work of our lives that God's nourishing presence is revealed and offered. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. Give thanks for the many hands that worked separately but in common purpose to produce this food for our bodies. Remember God's presence through hands that create, hands that support and protect, hands that reach out in love, hands that soothe and console, hands that work together for peace and justice. As you eat this bread, pray that your own hands will be strengthened and blessed for service, revealing in all they do the loving presence of God in the world. **Amen.**

### HYMN #493 *Taste and See*

*Refrain - All*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and the same key signature. The lyrics for the first system are: "Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics for the second system are: "taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

Cantor: Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free. **Refrain**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nourished by the living God and grounded in this community of faith, we 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.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN #679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE *Praeludium in G Major, BuxWV147*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)  
Rachael Kresha, organist



**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church  
**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman  
**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate  
Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship  
Rachael Kresha, Apostle Choir Director, Associate Organist  
**MUSICIANS** Barb LaMaster, Liz Raduege, Dave LaMaster, Brad Anderson, Michael Fuchs,  
singers; Kristin Sande, violin; Byron Klimek, cello; Karen Sande, piano;  
Rachael Kresha, organist  
**VIDEOGRAPHER** Sam Weston  
**VIDEO EDITOR** Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

**faithlovecommunity**  
First Lutheran Church

