

Traditional Worship

September 20, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 25

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

Variations on "Salvation unto Us Has Come" – arr. Stephen P. Johnson

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #590 – Verses 1-3 *

Salvation unto Us Has Come

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God who creates, redeems,
and sustains us and all of creation.

Assembly: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

**Assembly: we confess that we have often wanted your grace for ourselves,
but have struggled to rejoice when you extend it to others.
We compare ourselves with our neighbors and measure what we deserve.
We keep score of who has worked harder, who has failed more, who belongs,
and who does not.
Like Jonah,
we sometimes resent your compassion
when it reaches those we think should be judged.
Like the workers in the vineyard,
we can become jealous
when your generosity does not match
our sense of fairness.
Forgive us, O God.
Free us from envy, resentment, self-righteousness, and pride.
Teach us to trust your goodness rather than measure your gifts.
Open our hearts to rejoice whenever your mercy brings life,
restoration, and hope.
Make us generous because you are generous.
Make us merciful because you are merciful.
And turn our hearts again toward you and toward one another.
Amen.**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sin.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, God makes us new
and calls us to live in grace and freedom.
Rejoice in this good news:

Assembly: Amen.

OPENING HYMN #590 – Verses 4-6 *

Salvation unto Us Has Come

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

God of Abundant Grace,
from your providing hands even the dissatisfied and grumbling
receive what they need for their lives.
By your Spirit, fill us with compassion for one another,
teach us your way of justice, and lead us to practice generosity –
that our lives may reveal the Good News
made known through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ 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.

^{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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 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?”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

The Psalm Refrain is sung by the Cantor and then the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain. The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain as indicated.



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...*Refrain*

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...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

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, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

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 in no way frightened by those opposing you. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 20:1-16

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

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

Assembly: 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. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 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 a denarius?' 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."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (*printed on next page*) *

The Owner of the Vineyard

APOSTLE'S CREED *

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.

The Owner of the Vineyard

Delores Dufner, OSB

NYLAND
Finnish melody

1. The own - er of the vine - yard re -
2. The own - er turned and asked them, "Why
3. O God, like vine - yard own - er, so
4. We can - not earn your grac - es or

ward - ed all who came, but late and ear - ly
are your fac - es long? I gave you all I
lav - ish and so free, you give with sweet a -
claim them as our right, but kind - ness is your

work - ers were treat - ed just the same. Then
prom - ised and sure - ly did no wrong. Are
ban - don to all hu - man - i - ty. If
na - ture and giv - ing, your de - light. We

those who bore the bur - den of blis - t'ring
you now filled with en - vy, be - liev - ing
mer - it were your stan - dard, we could not
thank you, God most gen - 'rous, whose ways are

heat all day com - plained that long - er
me un - fair? May I not give as
thrive and grow, for we re - ly on
not our ways. For gifts we do not

la - bor de - served more lib - 'ral pay.
wag - es the wealth that's mine to share?"
mer - cy, so great the debt we owe.
mer - it, we sing our grate - ful praise.

PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Hear us, O God,”

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “We ask this in Jesus’ name.”

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with “peace be with you...and also with you.”

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



8:00 – *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* – Calvin Hampton
Based on Hymn #587

11:10 – *Come, Labor On* – arr. John Ferguson

*Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
While all around waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the master say, "Go work today."*

*Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
To young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.*

*Come, labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here;
Though feeble agents may we all fulfill God's will. God's righteous will.*

*Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
Till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"*

OFFERTORY *

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

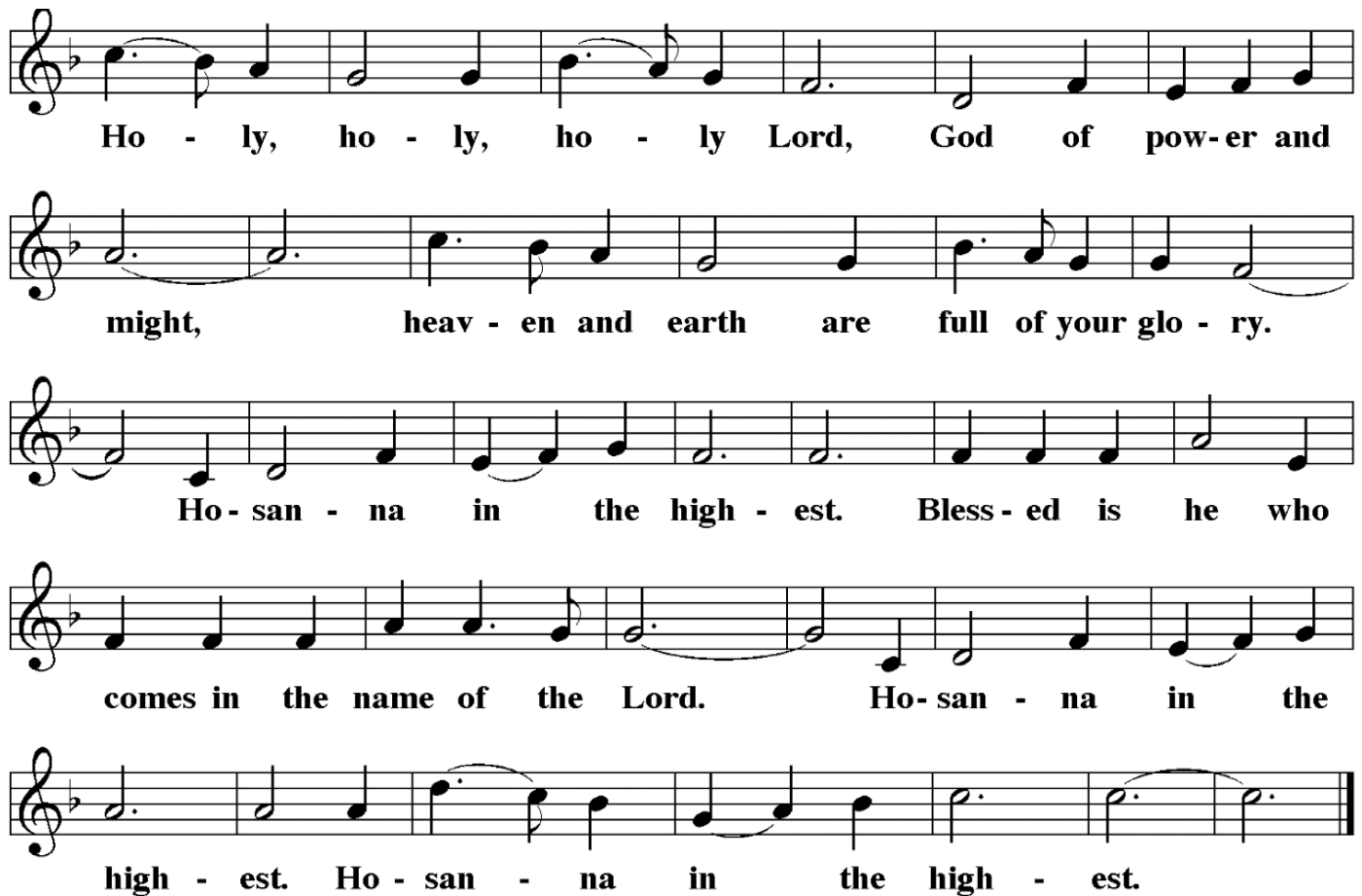
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
For you are gracious and compassionate, abounding in steadfast love.
You call us to set aside our calculations and rejoice in your generous grace,
which welcomes the last and the least into the abundance of your kingdom.
Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

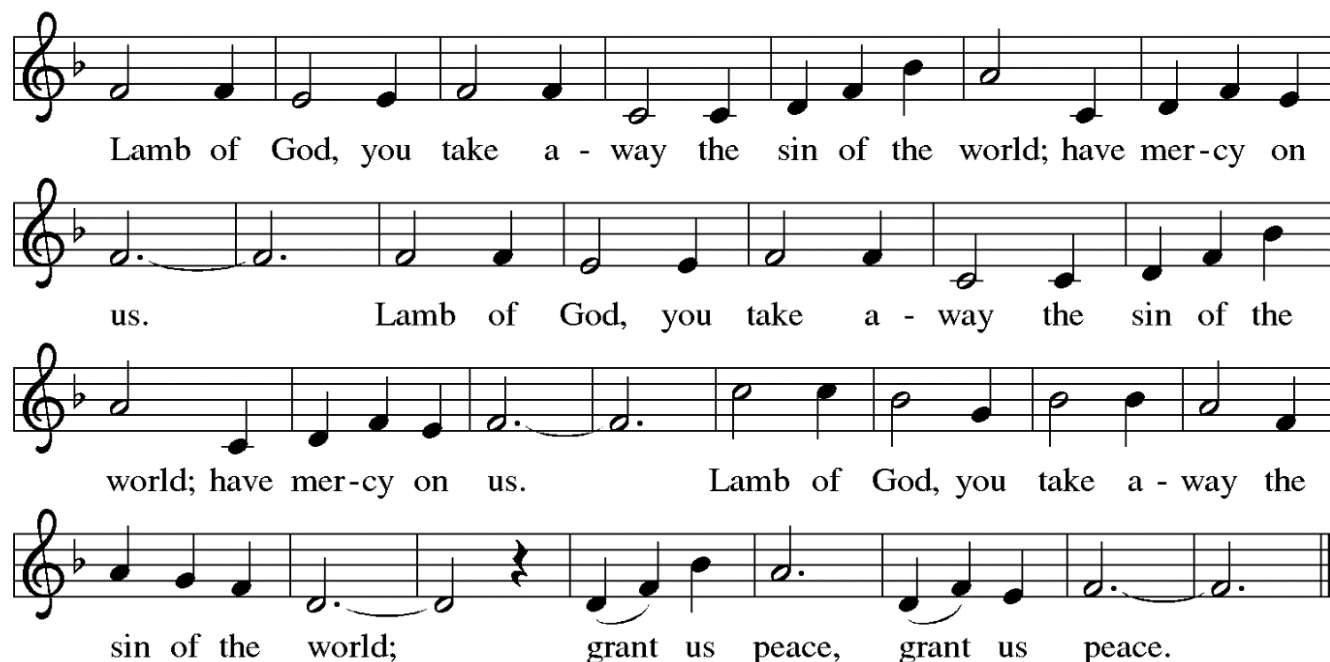


WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
Come, share in this feast of love.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – *Lord of All Hopefulness*

Organ Meditation – arr. Michael Burkhardt

Hymn #765

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Life-giving God,
you have fed us with your generous grace.
Teach us to rejoice in your mercy,
to welcome those you welcome,
and to share your abundance freely.
Send us now as people shaped by your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go from here as workers in God's upside-down kingdom
where the last are first and the first are last,
where needs are met in miraculous ways,
and there is grace enough for all.
And may the blessing of God,
the love of Jesus Christ ✙,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
surround and sustain you, now and always.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #688 *

Lord of Light

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Be mercy and love to the world.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *

Improvisation on "Lord of Light" – arr. Michael Burkhardt

.....

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Susan Quintenz, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00

Pastor Nelson Meyer, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Robin Terschak, Cantor

Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

.....

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given by Walt and Faith Bauer
in honor and memory of the 99th wedding anniversary of Walt's parents on September 3.*

.....

Service Music & Liturgy reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense.net # A-722064, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SBW0464223 & CCLI # 1841035(reprint) & #20141603 (Streaming)

Scripture quotations New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Worship resources from sundaysandseasons.com © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

.....