
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Piney Parish



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant O Lord, open our lips
All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Officiant Give us the joy of your saving help
All **and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Officiant Let us pray.
All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King

vv. 5-6

All you with mercy in your heart,
forgiving others, take your part
O sing now, Alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and cast on him your care
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And even you, most gentle death,
waiting to hush our final breath,
O praise him, Alleluia!
You lead back home the child of God,
for Christ our Lord that way has trod,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.
God, you have given us a lodging in this world but not an abiding city. Help us, as a pilgrim people, to endure hardness, knowing that at the end of our journey Christ has prepared a place for us. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

God Creates Helpers

THE PSALM *Psalm 145:1-8*

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who is mighty in deeds yet tender and compassionate.

- ¹ I will exalt you, O holy God, *
 and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I bless you *
 and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great are you, O God, 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 ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness, *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

⁸ You are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Our gospel is the story of the laborers in the vineyard, who are all paid the same wage despite their different hours of work. On one level it suggests that nobody can presume on God's grace, so often extended to those who may seem the least deserving. The parable deliberately flies in the face of normal human expectations. It offers a clue pointing to God's extraordinary evenhandedness in dealing with people quite apart from human ideas about their merit.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Maria Kane

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Frank Pilato

Officiant

Come, all who labor in the vineyard of God's grace, let us join together in the offering of our prayers, saying, "Lord, hear our prayers."

Intercessor

That our commitment to justice may extend to those we employ in our households and businesses, paying a fair and living wage, clarifying expectations, and seeking honest work in return; and that there may be peace and benevolence among all nations; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may bridle our tongue against the urge to complain, channeling our energy to generously participate in the building up of the community of faith; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Matthew's Church and Day School, Hyattsville and the Diocesan Ordination Service and those being ordained as deacons; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That our homes may be schools of religious faith, where God's loving presence is revealed through personal sacrifice, ongoing forgiveness, and mutual joy; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may rejoice in the beauty of the season, and honor the extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who have died, including Betty Garner and Glen Thompson, may join in the company of the angels and archangels, all the saints in heaven, and rest in the blessed arms of him who is the first and the last, Jesus our Redeemer; let us pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

(Please add your intercessions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)

The Officiant will add a concluding collect.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray:

All **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Officiant During this time in which we cannot gather to celebrate the great sacrament of Holy Communion, let us offer our selves, souls, and bodies to God in this prayer for spiritual communion.

All In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. We present to you our souls and bodies, with the earnest wish that we may ever be united to You.

We proclaim our trust in you and recall your mighty deeds on our behalf. We remember your death, we proclaim your resurrection, and we await your coming in glory. Strengthen and sustain us with your grace, surround us with your love, and uphold us with your mercy. May we live in you and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken

vv. 1,2

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty of our God;
2. See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love;

he whose word can not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
Grace which, like the Lord, the give - er nev - er fails from age to age.

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Questions for Reflection

In the stories in Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16, we find others resentful of God's generosity toward the "undeserving." Both stories end with a question worth pondering. God asks Jonah: "Should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city?" and the landowner asks the grumbling all-day workers: "Are you envious because I am generous?" How do these stories of God's generosity invite us to think about our own lives?

Household Prayer: Morning

New every morning are your mercies, Lord. Your steadfast love stayed with me through the night and greets me as I rise this day. This morning, I remember and give thanks for parents and grandparents, for teachers and friends in generations past who showed your love and told your stories to me. I pray that I will also share this faith with a new generation so that our praise of you continues forever. I will not be idle today, but will find a way to do whatever work you set before me with a glad and generous heart. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Here at the close of the day, O God, I come to you with open hands to receive the gift of your grace with a thankful spirit. If there is in me any trace of anger or resentment left over from the day, from some slight, big or small, real or imagined, blow it away with the breath of your peace. In the lengthening shadows of evening, comforted by a softer light in stars and moon, quiet within me the duties and cares of the day now past, enabling me to rest in you. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

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