



SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

☒ Bishop ☒ Assisting Minister ☒ All

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

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

☒ Amen.

☒ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

☒ Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

☒ Most merciful God,

☒ we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

☒ God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

☒ Amen.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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Greeting & Prayer of the Day

☒ 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.

☒ Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

☒ 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.

HEARING THE WORD

First Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

☒ A reading from Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – 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.

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
 art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

ⓑ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ⓐ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. 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?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 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.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.’ 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? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

▣ The Gospel of the Lord.

▣ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr, Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace

ELW #779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Creed

A Living together in trust and hope, we confess our baptismal faith:

G 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

A Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service.

Strengthen those who suffer for Christ in their witness and protect their bodies. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities – nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. We pray for those who are surrounded by out of control wildfires, those who are at risk of loss of life and livelihood, first responders who put their

lives on the line, and the world groaning under the increased climate crisis. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence across our nation and world, particularly in Ethiopia and the Holy Land. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Sustain the Community of St. Dysmas and Pastor Susan Beck in their ministry and witness. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need especially those we name aloud, in silence and on social media using the hashtag #demdprays.

Silence is kept for a moment.

Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

☞ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Ⓐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

☞ **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.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Ⓑ Let us give thanks for the Word:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

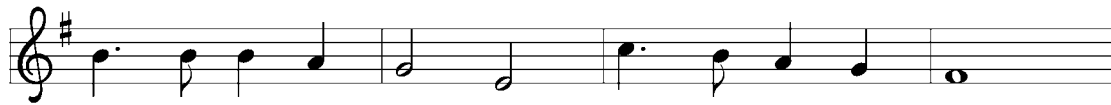
☞ **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Ⓑ Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; cry out for justice; honor all people; love and serve the Lord. May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.
 Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

Dismissal

A Go in peace, be the body of Christ alive in the world.

G Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Bishop

The Rev. Bill Gohl
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Assisting Minister &
Cantor

The Rev. Tamika Jancewicz, Associate Pastor
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD

Producer

John Miller
Alston Carlisle Production

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