

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost



“Come...Be a Part of Peace!”

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

904.261.6306 www.poplweb.org

September 20, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Kneel, sit or stand. 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.

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

https://youtu.be/_cJsQx0Q43c

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

669



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

FESTAL SONG
SM

Kyrie



Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness 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.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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. ²He 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. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then 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. ⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



¹I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

**²Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!

There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

**⁴One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

**⁶They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.**

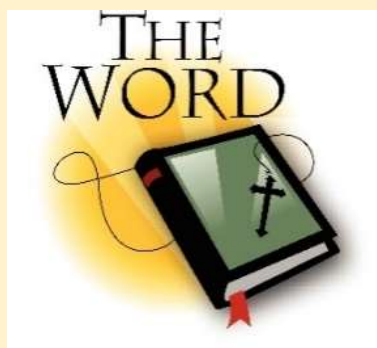
⁷They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.

**⁸The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

“REACTING TO UNCONDITIONAL MERCY AND GRACE”

Friends in Christ, grace, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior. Amen.

I must admit that the Old Testament book of Jonah is my favorite and I have also always liked the gospel lesson we have from Matthew today. Both lessons are about radical mercy and grace given, along with the reactions of those who do not feel it was fair. You might say they complained and sulked because people did nothing to deserve all these good things that happened to them. How dare those Ninevites be forgiven. How dare those who only worked the last hour of the day get the same as those of us who started working earlier in the day, let alone those of who worked all day long. No, it is not fair at all.

Jonah you might say is a passive aggressive prophet from the very beginning. God told him to go to Nineveh, but he instead boarded a boat to Tarshish. A great storm came up, the crew was throwing the freight overboard, praying to their many gods, while Jonah slept in the hold of the ship. Long story short...lots were cast, and the cause of the storm pointed to Jonah. The crew asked Jonah who his god was, and he said the one who created the heavens and the earth. They prayed to the Lord God before they threw Jonah off the ship and immediately after they threw him overboard the storm abated. As it says, **“Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and made vows.”** Just think about it, unbeknownst to Jonah all on board the ship came to believe in the Lord God.

Of course, the story does not end there, and the Lord saved Jonah by having a passing whale swallow him until three days later the whale spews him out on dry land just outside of Nineveh. It is here that Jonah then preached the shortest sermon...and I must add the most effective sermon ever...since it worked! From the king on down they changed their evil ways. An eight-word sermon: **“Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”**

Jonah, you might say was prepared for the worst as he sat up on the hill to watch as the Lord destroyed Nineveh. And when it did not happen, Jonah was not a happy camper. As a matter of fact, he told the Lord to just let him die. How could his God be so good to these terrible, no good people? Except, Jonah did know that his God was gracious, slow to anger, and abounding with steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing, but these are not the people God should be treating this way. It is just not fair.

Now, to understand a bit more about the gospel we really need to back up to chapter 19 where a rich man had asked what good deed, he must do to have eternal life. At the end of the conversation Jesus told him he must sell all his possessions and give the money

to the poor and follow him...the rich man went away grieving.

Now, we enter into the conversation between Jesus and his disciples: ²³ ***“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” ...³⁰ But any who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”***

Now, we have Jesus explaining to them what the kingdom of heaven will be like and there can be a place for everyone. It is wonderful and scandalous at the same time depending on your outlook. It is like Jonah who was so upset that God would pardon the Ninevites and I wonder how he would have felt if he had known about the crew that threw him overboard that they had also come to believe in *his* Lord God.

One of the things that I love the most about being a Lutheran is, that it is not my judgement call that is on the heart of another person. I believe that Jesus does the saving and the judging. Oh, I might have a role in it by walking beside people, teaching and preaching, listening to fears, praying, but in the end, it is all about Jesus, not about me. That is freeing and it should also be freeing for each of you. We do not give salvation, that comes as a gift from God through Jesus alone. We cannot earn it by any works that we do. No, it is freely given to you and me, and when we have that “*aha*” moment and it can happen more than once in our lives it gives us peace that the world cannot give.

Hagiasmos is a Greek word that translated is “sanctified” and means “*set apart*”. You and I have been set apart for God’s use. In the gospel as the landowner keeps going back all day long to the marketplace to hire day laborers, think about the question he asks those that he hired last: ***‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’*** Have you ever wondered why they were not hired? Were they too old or too young, did they have physical disabilities, were they considered unclean, were they considered outsiders? We do not know why no one hired them except for this one landowner and out of his generosity he paid all the workers the same. Those who had worked the full day and had agreed to the wages set for the day as well as those who only worked an hour. All these workers were set apart in one way or another as workers in the vineyard. Sadly, at the end of the day instead of everyone feeling good that they could all go home and provide for their families, some felt they had been treated unfairly. They were like Jonah. How dare those others experience God’s radical mercy and grace? How dare they get as much as I did, I worked harder and longer than they did? It is just not fair!

We still see it today though. There are so many in the world shouting; “Not fair!” If only, oh if only there was a way to make everything fair, but so far, we have not managed a way with our human frailties to be able to do that. We ask ourselves, when will enough be enough? The next raise at work? We ask in the Lord’s Prayer; “Give us this day our daily bread.” Not bread for tomorrow, but only what we will need for today. Do most of us either sitting here in this building or watching from home have more than we need for today? I know that I do. Yet, there are some who do not and they are shouting out, “NOT FAIR!” Some are saying, “I want more.” Could it be that these two lessons are not meant to give us answers so much as to make us pause and think? Think about how we view all that we have, and what we think we deserve.

As I sat Tuesday morning, one of the pastors received a phone call from a member of his congregation. Someone he would never have thought would need financial help. He called to say he needed \$400.00 to pay his rent. Out of the generosity of the congregation a couple of years ago, when this pastor had gone to them and asked for a small amount to help another member, he received more than enough and he was able to say, "We can write a check for you today."

How often do we look around us and see the scandalous grace of God that we have been given? It is nothing that we deserve, yet it is freely given and that can be the problem. Because when we do not understand how much we do not deserve grace to begin with, it offends us when we witness it is given to others. I would say that everyone will experience a time when life is just not fair. I hope and pray that none of us will shout "Not fair" when we think someone else has received more than we think they should have. Amen.



Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read “Lord of All Hopefulness”

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/BP1ecUkOTB8>

765

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press

SLANE
10 11 11 12

The Apostles' + Creed +

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 sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

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.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence especially in our cities where there is looting and violence against innocent people. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Give our leaders patience and wisdom especially all those now running for elected offices.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work, We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Rosalie Wessel, Dr. David Page, Rev. Pat Harris, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Sue Whitman, Jo Kruer, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, Baby William, Kim Cole, James Ryan Kruer, the family of Kay Bozeman at her death, Judy Harris, Elmer Wessel, Milton Wilford, be with those whose lives have been disrupted by wild fires, community unrest and violent storms, those dealing with the Covid-19

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy be with Tess Mandrick, Aaron Opheim, Les Boette and Emily Pittman this week on their birthdays along with Blake & Nancy on their anniversary.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

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

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords 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.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

“On our way rejoicing”

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

<https://youtu.be/ax1mEFqIQtc>

537

On Our Way Rejoicing

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!

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; 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; honor all people;
Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday after Pentecost Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and sundaysandseasons.com, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.

Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw

IN NEED OF PRAYER

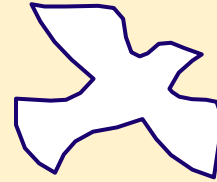
We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Krueer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee /
Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Bill Mungo Sr./
Lloyd Cotner / Jo Krueer / Lucy Creel / Judy Harris / Pat Harris / Sue Whitman

Family of Kay Bozeman at her death



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade
(daughter of Sue Whitman)
Andy Shook, US Army, (son of Ricky Shook)
Sgt. Rob Kinnard (Afghanistan)

Components of an Effective Prayer

<u>"A"</u> ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
<u>"C"</u> CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
<u>"T"</u> THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
<u>"S"</u> SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*