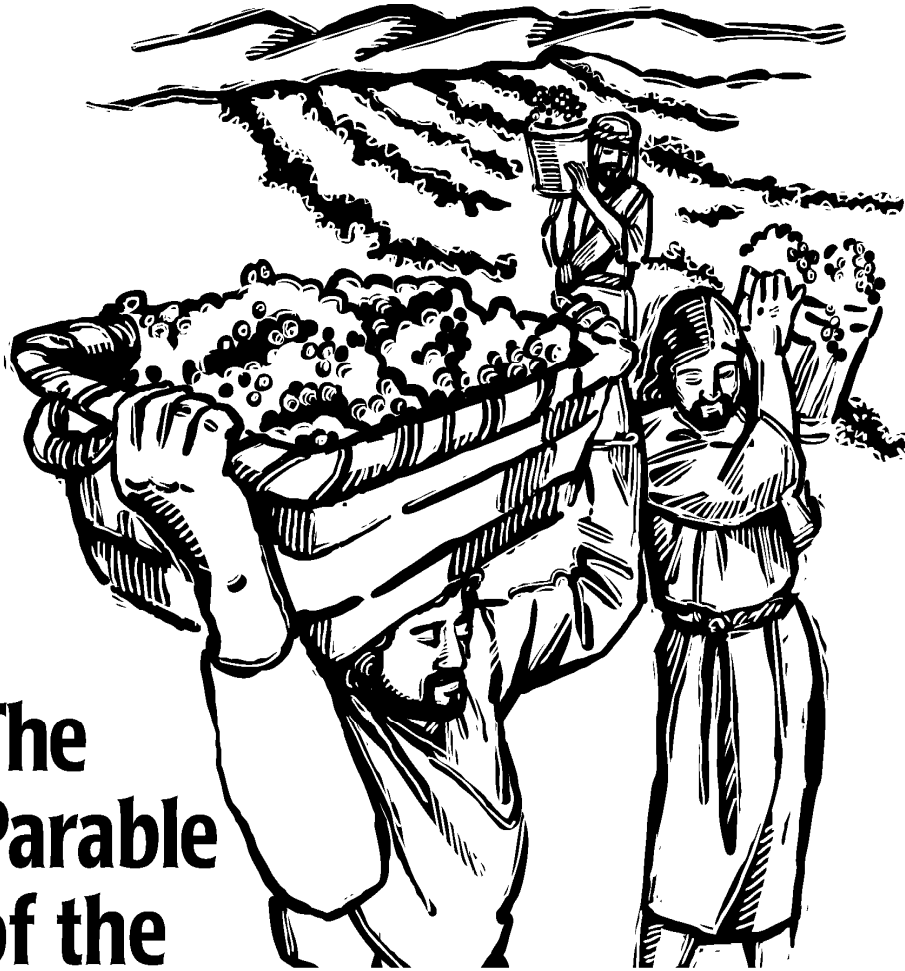


Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

September 24, 2017
8:45 AM, 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

September 24, 2017

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his 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 Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . *Leilani Camara and Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are an Open and Affirming church. Together, let us worship God, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate this day!

All: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for all people.

L: Christ who gathers us, bids us follow in the ways of love and justice.

All: May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship and our living, this day and always.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.*

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Source of all life,

All: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven,

All: God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OPENING HYMN . . . "Great God Your Love Has Called Us" vs. 1, 3

Text: Brian A. Wren - Tune: Norman Cocker - ELW #358

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re-ceive us

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,

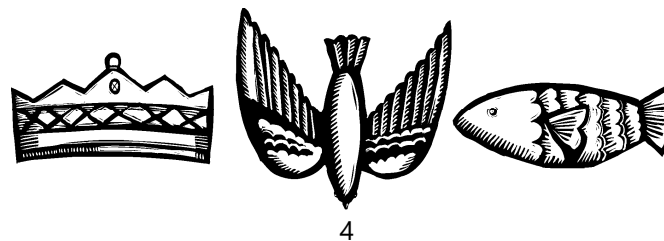
though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.

GREETING

*P: God of hosts most gracious, God the Son who saves us,
God the Spirit placed upon us, be with you all.*

All: And also with you.



KYRIE

L: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

L: For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. L: For your

All: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

L: Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. All: A - men.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

Refrain

All: Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving-kindness to us your servants.

All: **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.**

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “Awake, Awake to Love and Work”

WE LISTEN AND THINK

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 should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 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.

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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 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. 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?”



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.

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Alleluia!

ALLELUIA VERSE

All: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixteenth Chapter

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

[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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME . . . Pastor Tim



Please Stand

SONG . . . "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" vs. 1, 2

Text: Frederick W. Faber - Tune: North American - ELW #588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv' n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

Please Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

All: **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.

Be Seated

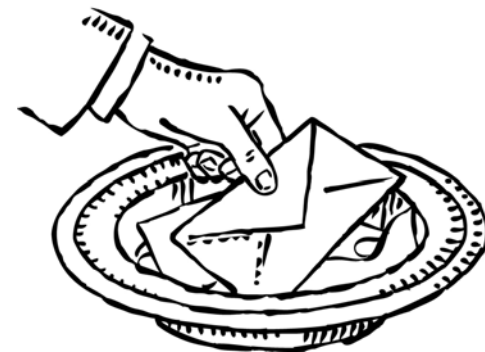
WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have received much from God—grace, mercy, abundance, the love of Christ, and the gift of life itself.

All: **In our worship, we praise God and give God thanks for these gifts. Let us now offer what we can as a way of saying, "Thank you." In gratitude for God's generosity, let us share God's abundance with one another.**

THANKFUL OFFERING



Please Stand

OFFERTORY

Refrain



All: As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these gifts and ask that they be used to help the needy in our community and throughout the world.

All: As we offer you these gifts, we offer ourselves as well, that together we might transform the world with your grace and love. Amen.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God, you provide for all our needs. We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated. We pray for all in any need. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for our congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you. All: And al - so with
 you. L: Lift up your hearts. All: We
 lift them to the Lord. L: Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. All: It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love,

that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Risen Savior gave us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: God gives food to those who hunger. Come, be fed, be healed.

All: We come with thanks to God's abundant table. Amen.

Be Seated

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion is open to all.
Grape juice white, wine is red.
If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Give Me Jesus"

Text & Tune: African American spiritual – ELW #770

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.
You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Text: Jan Struther - Tune: Irish traditional - ELW #765

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.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: O God, you are Hospitality. You are Welcome. You are the Invitation, the Table, the Feast. By your spirit may we learn to receive and offer grace, to share from the sustenance of our lives and not simply its crumbs.

All: Embolden us as we serve as the voice of those who continue to ask the church for justice and bread. In Christ we pray. Amen.

POST COMMUNION THANKS

All: Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
 Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
 weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -
 mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.
 From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to you for
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us.
 Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Be Seated

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WE CARRY GOD'S CARING LOVE TO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION

P: We leave this church, O God, with songs of new life on our lips.

All: With a message of hope in our hearts, with a determination to serve on our minds, with the love of Jesus Christ binding us together in faith community. Amen.

SENDING OUT . . . "Voices Raised to You" vs. 1, 3

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. – Tune: Carolyn Jennings – ELW #845

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



“Now the Feast and Celebration” Musical setting by Marty Haugen
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