



*Nurturing a Living Faith
with Open Hearts
and Serving Hands*

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Introduction to the Day

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.

**17th Sunday
after Pentecost
September 24, 2023
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**



ELW (Red Book) - Setting 8

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG "Christ Be Our Light" ELW #715

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW, pg. 94

GREETING, KYRIE, GLORY TO GOD ELW, pg. 184-185

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10--4:11 Margaret Fiechtner (8:30), reader
Marci Silrum (10:30)

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?

¹⁰When 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. 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."

***Welcome to
Worship at Trinity
Lutheran***

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not a building – it is you, the people. So "church," thanks for showing up today. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the "church."

We are thankful you are here. Through God's Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.

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?”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8

(Please read responsively).

¹I 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.**

³Great 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.**

⁵I 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.**

⁷They 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.**

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, pg. 188

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 20, beginning with verse 1.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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:] 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.**

CHILDREN’S TIME/SERMON

Pastor Martha HarriSon

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Praise and Thanksgiving”
“Lead Me Guide Me”

ELW #458 (8:30)
ELW #768 (10:30)

APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW, pg. 105

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please pray for Annette, James, Ellen, Morgan, Tom, Denell, Terry, Rhonda, Joyce, Wayne and Sharon.

OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, o God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”
“Go, Make a Difference”

ELW #534
On Screen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Your Gifts

<u>Aug-23</u>	Month Actual	Year-to- date Actual
INCOME		
Contributions	\$53,166.00	\$454,760.00
Other Income	\$7,919.00	\$71,375.00
Transfer	\$300.00	\$2,297.00
Total Income	\$61,385.00	\$528,432.00
EXPENSES	\$63,084.00	\$513,460.00
Income less expenses	(\$1,699.00)	\$14,972.00

Electronic Giving - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Giving as a simple way to contribute. This would allow you the freedom from worry or concern whether you are out of town, on vacation or wondering how to budget your contributions. Giving forms are available in the office, at the Welcome Center or on Trinity’s website.

We have also updated and simplified our website www.trinitybismarck.com in aiding you to give towards Trinity’s Capital Campaign. The GIVE PLUS area on the left allows you to give a recurring or one-time donation using a credit card. If you have questions or need assistance with electronic giving, please feel free to call Heather Baumann @ 223-3560. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Michael Hove, given by Brenda Hove.

VENDOR FAIR & FAMILY FUN VOLUNTEERS - We are planning another great event with 40 vendors and community groups signed up on Saturday, September 30th. We still need many volunteers to help out with different parts of the event such as:

- **Thursday, September 28th @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Setting up tables & chairs (*3 people*).
- **Friday, September 29th @ 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Decorating & organizing (*1 more person*).
- **Friday, September 29th @ 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Help vendors unload (*3 people*).
- **Saturday, September 30th @ 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.** Help vendors unload (*3 people*).
- **Saturday, September 30th @ 9:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Bounce House watcher (*1 person*).
- **Saturday, September 30th @ 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.** Bounce House watcher (*1 person*).
- **Saturday, September 30th @ 9:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.** Baked Goods Table sales (*1 more person*).
- **Saturday, September 30th @ 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.** Help loading vendor items and clean up (*3 more people*).

Gracia is recruiting volunteers to help with the meal also.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex or contact Klarissa if you are willing to help.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR VENDOR FAIR- As part of the Vendor Event, Trinity will have a Baked Good + Gifts table & Cake Walks. Items we are collecting:

- Baked Goods - packaged in individual or small servings. Do not need to be priced.
- Handmade Gifts - priced and ready to be sold.
- Cakes (any size) - packaged/boxed. Do not need to be priced for Cake Walks.

All proceeds from the table and cake walks will go to Trinity. Last year we raised almost \$600 from the table alone! Items can be dropped off to the office anytime Thursday, September 28th between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or Friday, September 29th by 10 a.m. Thank you for helping with this project!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - We will be starting a Grief Support Group that will meet for the first time on Saturday, October 7th @ 10 a.m. in the Conference Room. This group is for any adult who is struggling with grief. You could be grieving someone who passed away recently, or it could be grief that you have had for a long time. We believe that you never "get over" losing someone you love. This will be a discussion-based group and a confidential group. All are welcome. Please bring a memento that reminds you of your loved one to the first session to introduce yourself. This group will be led by Pastor Martha and some Stephen Ministers.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES - Does your child struggle with anxiety or depression? Does your child have an IEP? Or have an ADHD diagnosis? Or maybe you are just struggling with your teenager who is distant and moody? This group is for parents who have children who are dealing with any of these things and more. We met for the first time earlier this month, and it was a great time to connect with other parents and to support one another. Please join us on October 14th @ 9:30 a.m. in the conference room for our next session. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Martha.

YOUTH NEWS - We have many fun youth opportunities coming up this fall! Questions? See Gracia.

- **Club 316** for grades 3-5 & 6-8 meets the 3rd Sunday of the month @ 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- **High School Youth Group** meets Wednesdays @ 6:40 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Room.
- **Soul Sisterhood** for Middle School girls starts Sunday, October 8th.
- **Western ND Youth Gathering in Mandan:** October 19th & 20th for Grades 9-12; October 20th - 21st for Grades 6-8.
- **Youth Mega Bash at Camp of the Cross** for Grades 4-9: October 27th - 29th.
- **Frolic** for infants to 3 yr. olds on Sundays @ 9:45 a.m. starting October 1st in the Nursery.

"CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD" CONCERT - Dakota Pro Musica and the Minot Chamber Chorale present "Considering Matthew Shepard" a 90-minute concert musical to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Matthew Shepard's kidnapping and murder. The concert at Trinity will be on Friday, October 6th @ 7:30 p.m.

MESSIAH REHEARSALS - Rehearsals for Handel's "Messiah" begin on Sunday, October 15th @ 4 p.m. All singers are welcome!

GRACE LUTHERAN HAM DINNER - Grace Lutheran in Driscoll will host their Annual Ham Dinner on Sunday, October 15th @ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dinner prices are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5-12, children 4 and under are free! Everyone welcome!

ONLINE GIVING - Giving has never been easier! Open your camera on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you right to Trinity's online giving site. You can choose to give via credit card or bank account. Try it out today!

