



Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard [Codex aureus Epternacensis]

RESPONSIBLE LIVING - JOYFUL GIVING

Redefining Stewardship as "Whole Life" Stewardship

Pentecost 16

September 20, 2020

New Life Lutheran Church
Pearland, Texas

10:30AM



*New Life Lutheran Church is a partner congregation of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

- ROOTED *in the Word*
- REFRESHED *in the Spirit*
- REACHING *into the Neighborhood & the World!*

TODAY @ NEW LIFE:

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.

Here I am to Worship

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

Chorus:

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God,
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created.
All for love's sake became poor. *Chorus*

Bridge:

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross. (3x)

Chorus (2x)



Words: Tim Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
C: **who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Amen!**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION



P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ABSOLUTION AND FORGIVENESS

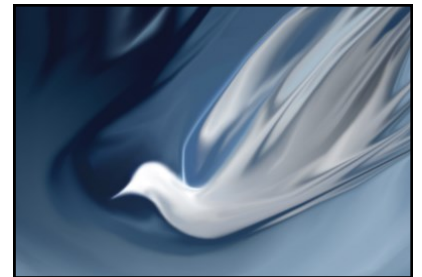
P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Christ Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.



GREETING

P: Grace and peace to all of you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; and may the inseparableness of the Holy Spirit be with everyone here!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God,

C: 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.

Children's Message

Sang Kim

*Each Sunday a special message is shared with all the children ages infants through 6th grade.
All God's children are welcome!*

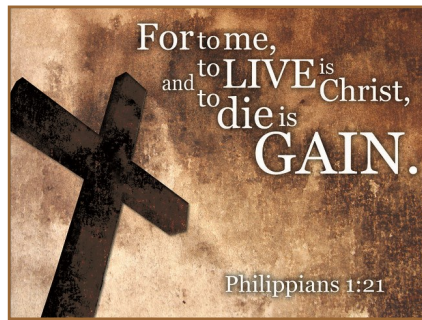


FAITH 5 - READ

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

- ¹⁰ 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.
- ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.
- ² 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.
- ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."
- ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.
- ⁸ 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."
- ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ 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?"

Here ends the reading.



Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30 (Bold - verse for FAITH5)

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.

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

R: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God!



Gospel

READING

P: The Good News of Jesus, Son of God according to St. Matthew:

C: Praise to You, Lord Christ!

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:] 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.”

P: Word of God. Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.



Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

We Believe

FAITH5 - PRAY

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

A brief silence.

P: 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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.



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

C: Amen.

THE OFFERING IS GIVEN

Giving is good for the giver; promoting our trust in God and providing blessings to the world.

TEXT GIVING is now available at New Life

You can now tithe via text. Text to **281.864.3278**, add a \$\$ amount to the message box and send. A link will appear for a 1 time set up.

Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again.

You can also give thru the New Life website NewLifeLutheran.com. There is a give page and donate options on most of the tab's main pages.

Checks can also be dropped off at the Church or mailed in.

On in-person Parking lot Service Sundays, there will be a basket for donations out.

Thank you for supporting New Life's ministry.

THE OFFERTORY

New Life Houseband

Giving Update September giving at New Life: \$13,589 of \$28,248 needed for the month. (48.1%)

Thank you!

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

C: You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise O Holy Father, our eternal and ever-present God. You sent us your Son, Jesus. In his love Christ has filled us with joy as we remember his birth and celebrate his return.

C: Amen! Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

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."

C: Our Father, who is in heaven. Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The
LORD'S
Prayer

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Take, eat and drink the bread and the cup to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

C: AMEN!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



P: Let us pray. We give you thanks gracious God,

C: that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

FAITH5 - BLESS

P: Now may God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen!

A SENDING SONG

You Are Worthy of My Praise

I will worship (I will worship)
With all of my heart (with all of my heart)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
With all of my strength (all my strength)
I will seek You (I will seek You)
All of my days (all of my days)
And I will follow (I will follow)
All of Your ways (all Your ways)

Chorus: I will give You all my worship
I will give You all my praise
You alone I long to worship
You alone are worthy of my praise

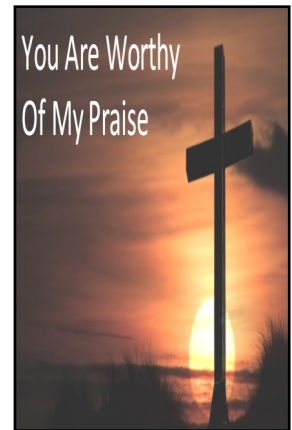
I will bow down (I will bow down)
Hail You as king (hail You as king)
And I will serve You (I will serve You)
Give You everything (give You everything)
I will lift up (I will lift up)
My eyes to Your throne (my eyes to Your throne)
And I will trust You (I will trust You)
I will trust You alone (trust You alone)

Chorus

WE GO TO SERVE THE LORD

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Text: David Ruis



All are Welcome

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEARLAND, TEXAS

LIVE STREAMING SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY:

8:00am: Traditional Worship

(Tailgate Worship & Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays)

10:30am: Contemporary Worship

The Language of God's Stewards:

TRUTH **GRATITUDE** **LOVE** **FORGIVENESS**
BLESSING **COMPASSION** **SACRIFICE**

WHOLE-LIFE MINISTRY

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

September 20th – 8:00 a.m. Livestream Tailgate Worship with Live

Communion & 10:30 a.m. – Livestream Worship with Virtual Communion

September 27th – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Livestream Worship with Virtual Communion

Gospel

Bible Study



zoom

Sunday Zoom Gospel Study

Join Pastor Bill in an online *Zoom* virtual **Adult Christian Education**

Bible Study each **Sunday at 9:30 am**. Each 30-minute session will feature a study and discussion of the Gospel Reading for that day.

If you would like to join the class, please send your **name, phone number** and **email address** to pastor@newlifelutheran.com and Pastor Bill will send you a link to the Zoom meeting and instructions. Come join in the conversation online!