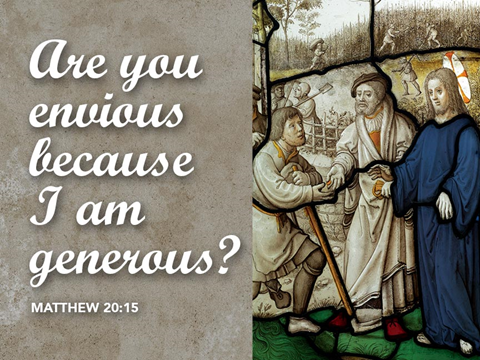
**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**16th Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2020**

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***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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.*

***For those gathering with a House Church via Zoom:***

***Please mute your mic during the hymns and the sermon video;***

***you may unmute it for the rest of the service.***

***If there is background noise in your context, please leave your mic muted***

***except when you are speaking a response in the liturgy.***

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

*as the worship leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, who creates, redeems,

and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**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.**

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:

Our sins are forgiven in the name of **☩** Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, let us live in freedom and

newness to do God’s work in the world. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#588 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

sts. 1, 3, 4

C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\J5WZHBOP\There's_a_Wideness_in_God's_Mercy_(LORD,_REVIVE_US)_(Melody)[1].tif

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Greeting**

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.**

**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.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson 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 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.  
 4:1But 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.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 145:1-8**

*The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

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 Lesson 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **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:] 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**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

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. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. 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. 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, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need *especially* Marilyn, Sigrid, Chris, Dorothy, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

*(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**The 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.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

Mothering God, Father, **☩** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and lead us into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #733 Great is Thy Faithfulness

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Marilyn Goodrich Member Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**Today’s Fellowship at St. James Farm has been cancelled, we will meet in two weeks on Sunday, October 4 at 11:30am:**  St. James Farm is located at 2S541 Winfield Road in Warrenville. This is a fellowship event only and NOT a worship service. We will still be virtually meeting with our House Church groups at 9:30am. Please remember to bring your face mask, and a sack lunch if you would like to. There is some seating available at picnic tables, but bringing a blanket or lawn chair is a good idea too. We look forward to seeing you and having a nice outdoor visit. We hope you will join us!

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We currently have five “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) Those of us that have experienced House Church have found this to be a very sacred experience. Pastor Melody will join one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. And the best part!? Inviting friends to join us is always welcomed!

Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

**Tuesday Evening House Church at 7pm:** Are Sunday mornings at 9:30am not a convenient time for you to worship? Come join Becky Ficarella for an Evening Worship opportunity on Tuesdays at 7pm. Please register on the Grace Website or contact Becky and let her know that you would like to be a part of the Tuesday Evening House Church.

**Blood Drive, Saturday, October 10, 9:00-1:00pm:** From Brad Goertzen: Usually we try to have a summer blood drive but for several reasons we have been unable to do so this year. Versiti, formerly Heartland, was very understanding when we had to cancel our July standing appointment.

However, they have contacted us again because they are in need of donations now more than ever. They have assured us that they can safely coordinate a drive where we all are physically distanced and protected with masks. A Q&A handout is available if you have questions about the safety of donations during this pandemic.

Additional good news is that every donation taken will be tested for Covid-19 antibodies. This will confirm whether or not you have been exposed and recovered from virus.

Please consider giving a donation and passing along the request to friends and family. You can sign up today at the following link to donate:

<https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5580681>

**"Cars Under the Stars" Jazz Concert Food Pantry Fundraiser, Friday, October 9:** Join the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry for a drive-in concert featuring popular gypsy jazz musician, Alfonso Ponticelli, in "Cars Under the Stars" on **Friday, October 9th from 7-9pm**. He's been featured at the legendary Green Mill jazz club and we're excited to host him in the parking lot at Faith Lutheran Church (41 N. Park Blvd). A suggested donation of at least $50 per car is requested in order to support the capital campaign for renovating our new home. Enjoy the concert from your car (limit 4 people per car) and please keep in mind that no refreshments will be available due to COVID-19 guidelines. This special event is expected to sell out so register soon!

[**https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\_s-xclick&hosted\_button\_id=U5C5KQEX5E4ML**](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=U5C5KQEX5E4ML)

**Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Laura and U.S. Wildfires:**Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response which are assessing the immediate needs and initiating a response. While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is our commitment as a church.  
**What you can do: Pray -**Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes and wildfires. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.  
**Give:**Your gifts designated for **“**[Hurricane Response](https://stlukeglenellyn.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee9d5e8f0f660ac5ab463e199&id=0a5b7bf6e2&e=c669907788)**”** or “U.S. Wildfires Response” will be used entirely (100%) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes or wildfires.   
**Give Online:**  https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief or https://community.elca.org/uswildfires   
**Give by Mail:**  *Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response. Write "Hurricane Response" or “U.S. Wildfire Response” on your check's memo line and send to:***Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116**  
**Give by Phone:**Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

**Phone: 630-469-1555 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630-674-2887**

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