

Worship in the Home

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church 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.

Prelude

Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

On Eagle's Wings

ELW # 787

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

fear; un - der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain

All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...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

^{3:10}When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them; and God 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?” 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.

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?”

Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said:] ¹“The dominion 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. ⁵“When 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.’ ⁸“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.’ 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.”

Homily

Hymn of the Day:

Lord of All Hopefulness

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.

Reflection

The old story goes that Jonah does not want Israel's ancient enemies forgiven for he does not think they deserve it. Then, in Matthew's parable, the first workers, expecting that they themselves should get more, do not think the latecomers deserve full pay. Do we draw lines about who is deserving and who not? The gospel is always teaching us that if we draw a line to exclude someone, Jesus Christ is always on the other side of the line: in the cross he is with the unsalaried, the suffering poor, the sinners, the enemies, even the threatened animals. And he is risen to give away mercy to all, to give enough to live this day. The justice and "fairness" of God is mercy. And none of us is deserving. We, too, are latecomers — beggars for life — and God's gift is for us all, without distinction. Such mercy gives us an utterly new way to see the world.

Prayers of Intercession

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

O God, you make the last first, and the first last. Give resources and courage to the churches around the globe that have few resources. When ministry in this time is so difficult, inspire bishops, pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders in their service. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

Continue your care for your whole creation: sun and wind, bushes and worms, cities and farms, and all your many animals. Make us into extensions of your care. Preserve the food sources of the world's endangered wildlife. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

To places of conflict and violence, bring peace, especially to the cities of our nation. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Preserve protesters, and guide police. Enlighten our nation, the nations we call friends, and the nations that are deemed our enemies. Keep our election season from dishonesty. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

Give your blessing to the Jewish people at this time of their new year. Bring an end to anti-Semitism around the globe and strengthen peace efforts in the Middle East. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

To all who are suffering, show your mercy. We pray for firefighters, for communities devastated by fire, for all who suffer racial injustice, for migrants who seek safety, for all who are imprisoned, for victims of crime, for the unemployed, for students and faculty during the pandemic, for medical workers, for all who are hungry: O God, the list of the needy is so long. . . O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

Give health and wholeness to all who are sick, to all who are suffering from the coronavirus, and to those we name before you here: O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

You show mercy beyond our expectations, far beyond our deserving. Hear now our personal prayers. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

We praise you for all the saints, especially this week for the apostle Matthew and for the gift of his gospel that speaks to us of your goodness. Give us grace to live for Christ, until we join with all the faithful in your eternal life. O God, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

Benediction

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

Sending Hymn:

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW # 763



- 1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
- 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Dismissal

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

Join us for Fellowship on Zoom: 596-621-1441 Passcode 8675309

Committee Chairs: Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email (stmatthewluth@aol.com) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

Weekly Bulletins and Messengers are available on the website (stmatthewlc.com) for viewing or printing.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns:, John Aljets, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Elaine Buchart, Mark Calvert, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Jesse Fay, Joe Fay, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Reggie Gilbert, Shari Gilbert, Ryan Guyer, Erika Hallam, Bill Hainaut, Dan Hershberger, Stephen Hinish, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Fred Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Zowe Orczeck, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Katie Stormer, Wyatt Sweinhart, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

September Worship Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 AM Worship on Facebook, 10:15ish Fellowship on Zoom

Monday & Friday: Hymn Devotions at 9AM

Tuesday & Thursday: Morning Prayer 9AM & Night Prayer at 9PM

Tuesday & Friday: Midday Kid's Devotions (without song time)

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer at 8PM

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the family and friends of Janet Miller, upon her death on Saturday, September 12, 2020.

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Shawn Orczeck

Our Offering Counters – Beth Garner, Jim Barley

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW & Missionaries*”

Monthly Messenger’s: If you would like a mailed copy of the Messenger, please let Lori know in the church office either by email stmatthewluth@aol.com or by phone 793-2413. Always remember that the Messenger is also found on the Website at: stmatthewlc.com.

Prayer Vigil

To say we are living in a world greatly in need of prayer may seem like a gross understatement. In 2020 we have witnessed the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic, an economy that is struggling, racial tensions and injustices, political divides, food and housing insecurities, indecision regarding returning to school, cancellation of entertainment and sporting events, etc, etc. if we ever needed our Lord to “HEAR OUR PRAYER” it is now. We are yearning to return to our churches, participate in communion and fellowship even if it is at a distance. In the difficult times and the “normal” times, Jesus has always been there for us. We have only to knock and the door will be opened.



Won’t you join us in our 12 hour prayer vigil by giving one half hour in prayer from your home or wherever you may be on Saturday, October 3, 2020. If you would prefer a morning time from 6 AM until noon, please call Elaine Buchart at 793-3953. Les Loomis will be scheduling from noon until 6 PM at 1-570-885-0572.

DeYogaVotions In the Park For September

Yoga with meditation on scripture with Pastor Traci will be offered on Saturday, September 26th, at 9 a.m. at Canoe Creek State Park. This will be an outdoor socially-distanced events. Please bring your own mat (and block if you prefer) and meet to the right of the main parking area. Masks should be worn until everyone is in place and ready to begin.

****Volunteers Needed****

When we resume in-person worship (currently planned for Sunday, October 4th and onward) we will need a designated recorder at each service to take names and phone numbers to help with contact tracing in the event that someone tests positive for COVID-19. This will be a one-person (or one-couple) job for each of the three weekly services (9:00 a.m. Sunday in the nave, 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the fellowship hall, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the nave—a different recorder for each service). Recorders/Volunteers will be able to take information from behind a safety partition. If you are willing to help, please contact Lori at 793-2413 or stmatthewluth@aol.com with your availability.

Blanket Sunday

October 4, 2020

Blanket Sunday is a ministry that is traditionally held on the first Sunday of October. Persons in every congregation of the Allegheny Synod are invited to give a special offering for the purchase of blankets for Lutheran World Relief. You will find this special offering envelope in your offering booklets. If you have an offering number instead of an offering booklet, please write your “**offering number or name**” and “**blankets**” on a **pew envelope**. Your contribution of \$5.00 buys a sturdy blanket which provides shelter, warmth, and security to someone in the world facing disaster. Blanket Sunday is the largest single donation of blankets that takes place throughout the year.

Readings for the Week:

Monday (Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist) Matthew 9:9-13. **Tuesday** Romans 16:17-20. **Wednesday** Matthew 18:1-5. **Thursday** Psalm 25:1-9. **Friday** Ezekiel 18:5-18. **Saturday** Ezekiel 18:19-24. **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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