

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 19 and 20, 2020**

In Person worship, Saturday, 5 pm and Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am  
Sunday service will be livestream on Facebook at 10:30 am

**GATHERING**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Prelude in A Minor Charles Salaman

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*  
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The leader leads the following prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*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**

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

### **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 shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup><sup>1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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?"

**PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8** *to be read responsively between the lector and pastor*

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
There is no end | to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**

and I will re- | count your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>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.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## \* 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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.' <sup>13</sup>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? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## REFLECTION OF THE DAY

**HYMN OF THE DAY** – “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” ELW#358 *see insert*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Let us pray.

*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.**

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*). 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.**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING** – *to be spoken quietly*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The presiding minister continues.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*We welcome to the Lord's Table all visitors who are eligible to receive the Sacrament in their home congregation.  
The Sacrament will be distributed at the steps. Please follow the directions given by the Pastor.*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen.*

## **\*TABLE BLESSING**

*The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
God of abundance, with this bread of life and  
cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,  
making us one with all your people. Now send us  
forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim  
your redeeming love to the world and continue forever  
in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE** Postlude in G

Charles Vincent

**Congratulations to our First Holy Communion Students!** – Delayed by Covid-19, our students finally were able this important faith step to receive the promises of Christ's own body and blood in the bread and wine at the Lord's Table. On Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> Chase Maley, Ethan Tracey, Landon Trostle, and Lily Wisner received their First Holy Communion at the altar rail with their families. To keep proper distancing, the students came up with their families 2 at a time. On Sunday morning at the 8 am service, Allie Bright received her First Holy Communion with her family as well. There is still one more student to receive his First Holy Communion. Unfortunately, with the Pandemic this year our students were unable to bake bread or receive Holy Communion as a class, but it was still a God blessed celebration! Check out our Facebook page for the pictures!

**Schuylkill Mission District "Spring" Assembly** is being held Sunday, September 20 at 2 pm by way of Zoom. Holly Maldonado and Mary Lord are our delegates for both the Mission District assembly and the Synod assembly which will be held by Zoom over 2 weekends in October. We thank Holly and Mary for their willingness to serve as our representatives. This is an important year as we will elect a new Bishop at the October Assembly. As with many things during this pandemic, this will be a new experience as we virtually meet to do the work of the church. Please keep all the leaders and representatives of the Schuylkill Mission District in your prayers.

**Congratulations to Ian Tokarick for completing his Eagle Scout project!** Ian's project was to illuminate the Memorial and flag across the street at the Summer Hill Cemetery. Using a solar panel and LED lights, the Memorial is illuminated from dusk to dawn. This allows the flag to be flown 24 hours a day. Ian completed the project by sprucing up the landscaping. If you drive past the church at night, please check it out and notice the eagle that is now flying on top of the flagpole. We look forward to the ceremony in which he will receive his Eagle Scout Award.

**Prayer Requests** – Please email, text, or call Pastor Kathy with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. Pastoral care requests may be directed in the same way.

**Our Prayers and Condolences** go out to the family of Carol Glaser. Carol died September 9<sup>th</sup>. Her graveside funeral was held Friday, September 11, 2020. May she rest in the light of Christ now and forever.

**Holy Communion** – At home Communion kits are available for people who join us on Facebook for worship. Please call the church office to receive one. These kits can also be used by the pastor for a contactless Home Communion visit. If you are unable to join us in person or online and would like the Pastor to bring Home Communion to you, please call the church office to arrange a visit.

**Don't forget to make your reservation for Weekend Worship Services.** We are still under restricted attendance numbers. Reservations help us know how many to setup for Holy Communion and not turn anyone away at the door. Weekly standing reservations may be made so you don't have to make weekly calls. But don't hesitate to call at the last minute. We usually have space! Please call the church office up to 3 pm on Thursday. After that time, call or text Pastor Kathy on her cell.

**The Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity is holding a CROP Walk to End Hunger on World Communion Sunday, October 4.** The Walk starts and ends at the Council Food Pantry (100 Market Street) behind the old Walk In Shoe Factory, with registration beginning at 12:45 PM and devotions at 1 PM. Virtual individual and small group walks are encouraged. In this time of pandemic and natural disaster, our help to feed people is more important than ever. One-quarter of the funds raised will be returned to the Council Food Pantry. The remaining funds will be sent to Church World. CWS is always

one of the first charitable organizations to respond within hours of any disaster. Additional information can be found online at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). If you desire to walk, sponsor forms are available at the church. Those wishing to sponsor a walker can also make a donation through the church. See Pastor Kathy for any additional questions.

**Sponsor Opportunities** are available for altar flowers, bulletins, and our weekly mailings. Contact Linda in the church office for more information.

**Attendance for September 5 and 6, 2020:** 55 physically present, 2,772 virtual views and 9 shares as of 9/14/20. Not comfortable worshipping in person, join us for our Sunday livestream at 10:30 am or check out the recording on our Facebook page.

**Just a reminder:** Since the mail has begun to arrive at homes after the Sunday service it is meant to support, you may request being added to the weekly email list. Please send an email to the church's email and specify if you wish to be on the email list for only the weekly mailings or for both the mailing and the newsletter. The weekly bulletin is also available on the website. The button is in the upper right-hand corner next to the online giving button. Thank you, Linda

**Office Closed:** The church office will be closed every Friday from September 18<sup>th</sup> up to and including December 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

One vase of altar flowers has been placed in honor of Jennifer Platt's Birthday presented by her parents Glenn & Helen Miller.

#### **STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR ONLINE GIVING/MAIL-IN/DROPPED OFF FOR LAST WEEK**

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$109.00
Local Benevolence	\$158.25
Current	\$1647.55
Capital Building Fund	\$20.00
Plate	\$14.00
<b><u>Total Received</u></b>	<b>\$1948.80</b>

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING



#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Mon: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 27:1-29; Romans 16:1-16  
Tues: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20  
Wed: Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5  
Thu: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4:11-16  
Fri: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41  
Sat: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33



## Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

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