

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500

durhamlutheran.org



Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude:

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: ELW 583

Take My Life, That I May Be
Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

Refrain/Estrillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,
 da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
To stanzas *Last time*
 y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té*
 2 Take my hands and let them move
 3 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 4 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estrillo

pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

- 2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos de lo santo puedan ir, y que a ti, Señor, mi voz, se complazca en bendecir.* Estrillo
- 3 *Que mis labios al hablar hablen sólo de tu amor; que mis bienes dedicar yo los quiera a ti, Señor.* Estrillo

- 4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté consagrado a tu loor; que mi mente y su poder sean usados en tu honor.* Estrillo

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955
 Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
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GREETING (Please stand if you are able)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: You are the treasured people of the LORD,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

SCRIPTURE SONG



☒ Sal-va-tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na- tions.



Who can fail to hon- or you, Lord, and sing the glo- ry of your name?



☒ Sal-va-tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re- vealed.



☒ Sal-va-tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

Prayer of the Day:

L: 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.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation is seated after the prayer)

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?

L: A reading from Johan, the Third chapter.

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."

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?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

L: ¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: ²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

L: ³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

C: ⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

L: ⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

C: ⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

L: ⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

C: 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.

L: A reading from Philippians, the First chapter.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



Gospel Acclamation (Please stand if you are able)

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o- pen- to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

The 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.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[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: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

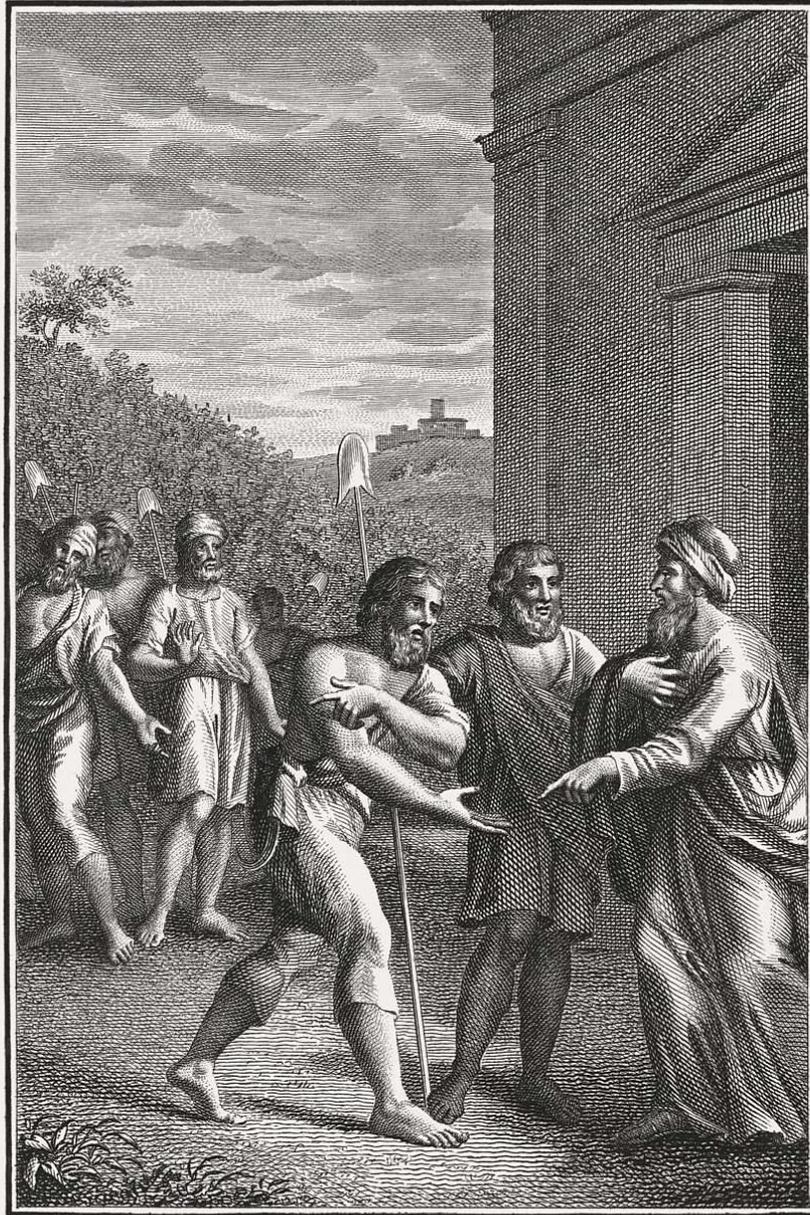
C: Praise to you. O Christ.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

MATH. XX. 4-16.



Schuler fecit argent.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: *Work for the Night is Coming*



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Offering Prayer

P: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

P: God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind (especially). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven (especially). United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: receive our prayer.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: 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

P: The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**



Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:



	ANNOUNCEMENTS		
	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
24	Katie Aquino	Rachael & Joel Roney (12)	
26		Tanya & Ben Naska (24)	
27	Jack Pyne		Nancy Moskella
28	Maggie Fischer		
30			Barbara Altemus

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, September 24	9:30 AM After Church 5:00 - 5:30 PM 5:30 - 7:30 PM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman WELCA Meeting Confirmation @ Durham Fellowship Meal Lessons/games
Wednesday, September 27	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Thursday, September 28	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM 12:30 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, October 1 (communion)	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, October 5	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Choir rehearsal Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, October 8	10:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman Porter Connor Jose Evram Baptism
Monday, October 9	7:00 PM	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, October 10	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, October 11	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Choir rehearsal Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's



September Outreach - Our Outreach envelopes for September have been designated for *Lutheran Disaster Response* for Maui wildfire relief.



Keep in your
PRAYERS

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Jason Bigley; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Davis; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Cindy Gilligan; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Barea Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Ashton Hales; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Stan Aagaard; Michael Barats; Joann Gary; Betty Kreitz; Lani Schlegel; Don Seipt; Marilyn Seipt; Hal Taylor; Ann Valent

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams
Greeter(s)	Nancy Moskella
Altar	Barb Naska & Dot Peterman
Acolyte	
Lector	Scott Gaun
Head / Communion Usher	Jim & Karen Beerer
Council Counting Team	Mark Harwick & Cathy Muller
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz