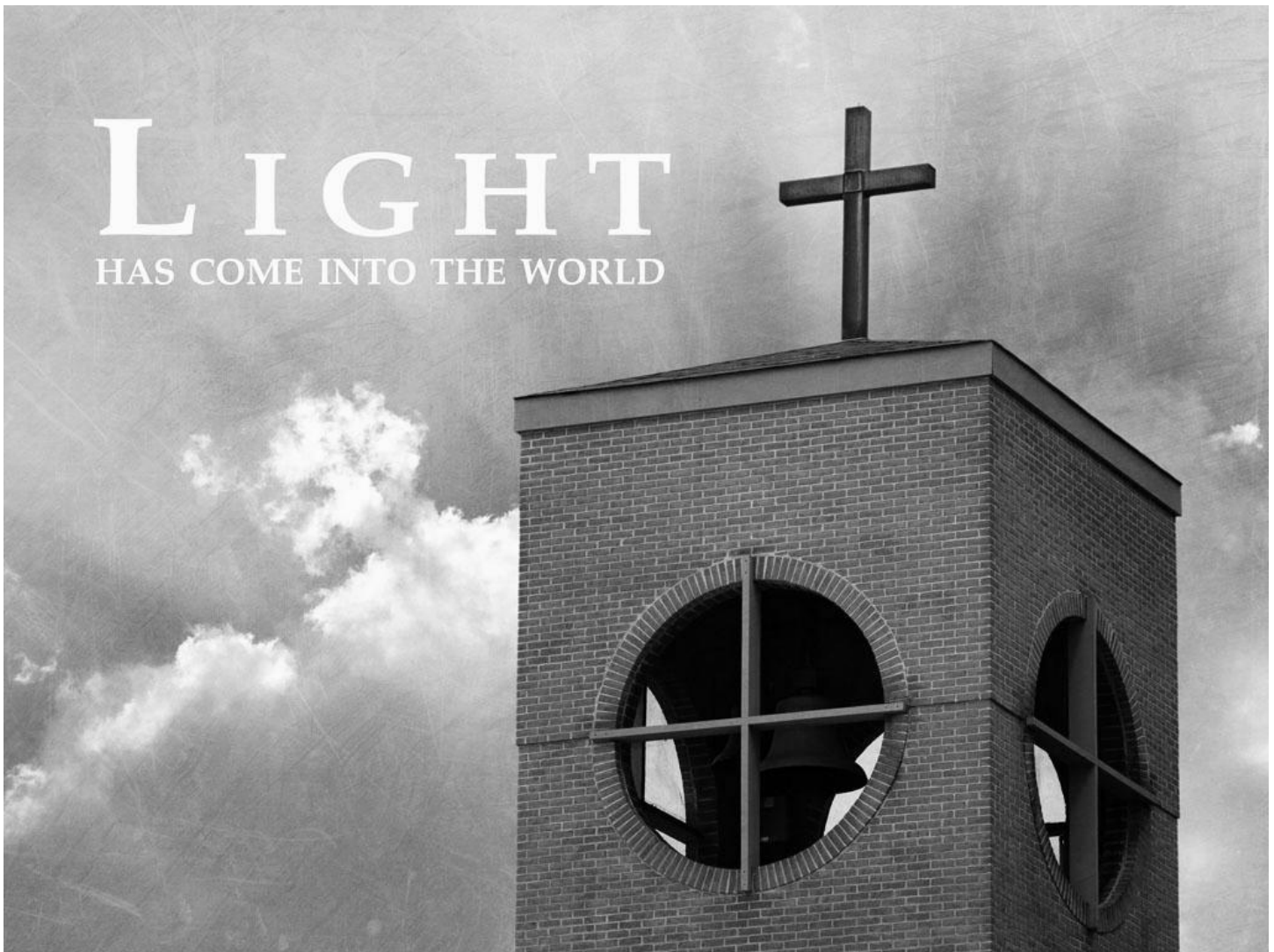


An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, September 23, 2017
5:30 pm
Holy Communion
Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover
Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994
www.stdavidslutheran.org

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

For your convenience there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.

INTRODUCTION

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his 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 Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the abundant and steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus, emboldened and called by the power of the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the healing and forgiveness of the God who is Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit let us confess our sin.

(Kneel or Stand) Silence is kept for reflection.

Just and gracious God,

**you call us into the freedom of light and life in your presence,
yet we choose the darkness and bondage of sin.**

**Our lives bear the wounds of that sin,
the sin of our own action,**

**unholy thoughts, unholy words, unholy deeds,
and the sin of our own inaction,**

injustice ignored, kindness not done, humility not shown.

Heal the wounds of our sin, forgive us, renew us, free us.

**Let the power of your Holy Spirit reign over us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

People of God:

When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross. Therefore, 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 sin, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

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.**

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

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.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

A reading from Jonah the 3rd & 4th chapters.

{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 should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?}

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?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians the 1st chapter.

{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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{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.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God who stretched the spangled heavens, we thank and praise you for the gift of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys, grasslands, and deserts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, you provide for all our needs. We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated. We pray for all in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of endings and beginnings, we remember before you all the faithful departed (*especially*). Comfort those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.
Peace be with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:

out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus
who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,
He willingly offered Himself up as a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace
we are your people,
born of water and word,
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves
as disciples who follow
as witnesses to the world
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

On 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 many
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

COMMUNION HYMN

Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gathered in Abundance

Every Sunday, Christians around the world gather together for worship. Alarm clocks (or cell phones) ring, faces get washed, clothes are picked out, breakfasts get eaten. Then we hop on a bus, get in a car, ride a bike, or set out by foot. From our many residences, our many lives and schedules and commitments, we gather together into one body to celebrate the abundance of God's grace and to carry that grace out into the world in service of others.

In today's parable we hear of a similar gathering. A landowner calls together more and more people waiting for work in the marketplace to reap an abundant harvest. Despite drawing them in at different times and in different ways, the landowner graciously gives each one a full day's pay. Understandably, the workers who have worked all day recoil at being paid the same as those who came at the end. But the parable points us toward a different way of seeing the situation. God knows the realities of our lives deeply. God knows the place from which God has called us, our unique history, story, hurts, and gifts. Though we are gathered with others, God's grace speaks to each of us directly, uniquely, and fully. We can come into God's presence expecting to receive all that we need for the coming week.

As you prepare for worship, spend time thinking about where you most need God's grace in your life. What are the realities in the week behind you or the week ahead of you that are the hardest to face? Know that where your needs abound, God's grace abounds even more. Extend that generosity around you as well. Look around at the faces of those gathered with you this day. Where have the people around you come from? Where is God calling you to work by passing God's grace onto others?

Daily Readings for the Week September 24-30

Sunday:	Jonah 3:10—4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
Monday:	Psalm 106:1-12 Genesis 27:1-29 Romans 16:1-16
Tuesday:	Psalm 106:1-12 Genesis 28:10-17 Romans 16:17-20
Wednesday:	Psalm 106:1-12 Isaiah 41:1-13 Matthew 18:1-5
Thursday:	Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 12:17-28 James 4:11-16
Friday:	Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 18:5-18 Acts 13:32-41
Saturday:	Psalm 25:1-9 Ezekiel 18:19-24 Mark 11:27-33

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