

## WORSHIP PLAN FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2020, PENTECOST 16

### WELCOME

### 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**

### GATHERING SONG *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

1 Open your ears, O faithful people,  
open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,  
God has come to you.

*Refrain*

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

2 They who have ears to hear the message,  
they who have ears, now let them hear;  
they who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let them hear God's word. *Refrain*

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version  
Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

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### CONFSSION

In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>☩</sup> Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 one another.

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.

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

A reading from Philippians.

<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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**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.**

## MESSAGE

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “*graciously hear our prayer.*”

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, you are full of compassion: **graciously hear our prayer.**

Give health and wholeness to all who are sick, and to all who are suffering from the coronavirus. 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. **Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, which 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.**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

1 Lord, you give the great commission:  
"Heal the sick and preach the word."  
Lest the church neglect its mission,  
and the gospel go unheard,  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity:

### *Refrain*

With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us  
for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:  
"This my body, this my blood."  
Let us all, for earth's true glory,  
daily lift life heavenward,  
asking that the world around us  
share your children's liberty: *Refrain*

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:  
"I am with you to the end."  
Faith and hope and love restoring,  
may we serve as you intend  
and, amid the cares that claim us,  
hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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## DISMISSAL

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

Previously Posted on September 15, 2020 by ELCA Worship  
Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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