

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost



8:30 A.M.
WORSHIP

*"The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard,"
by Rembrandt, 1637*





PRELUDE



WELCOME


CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

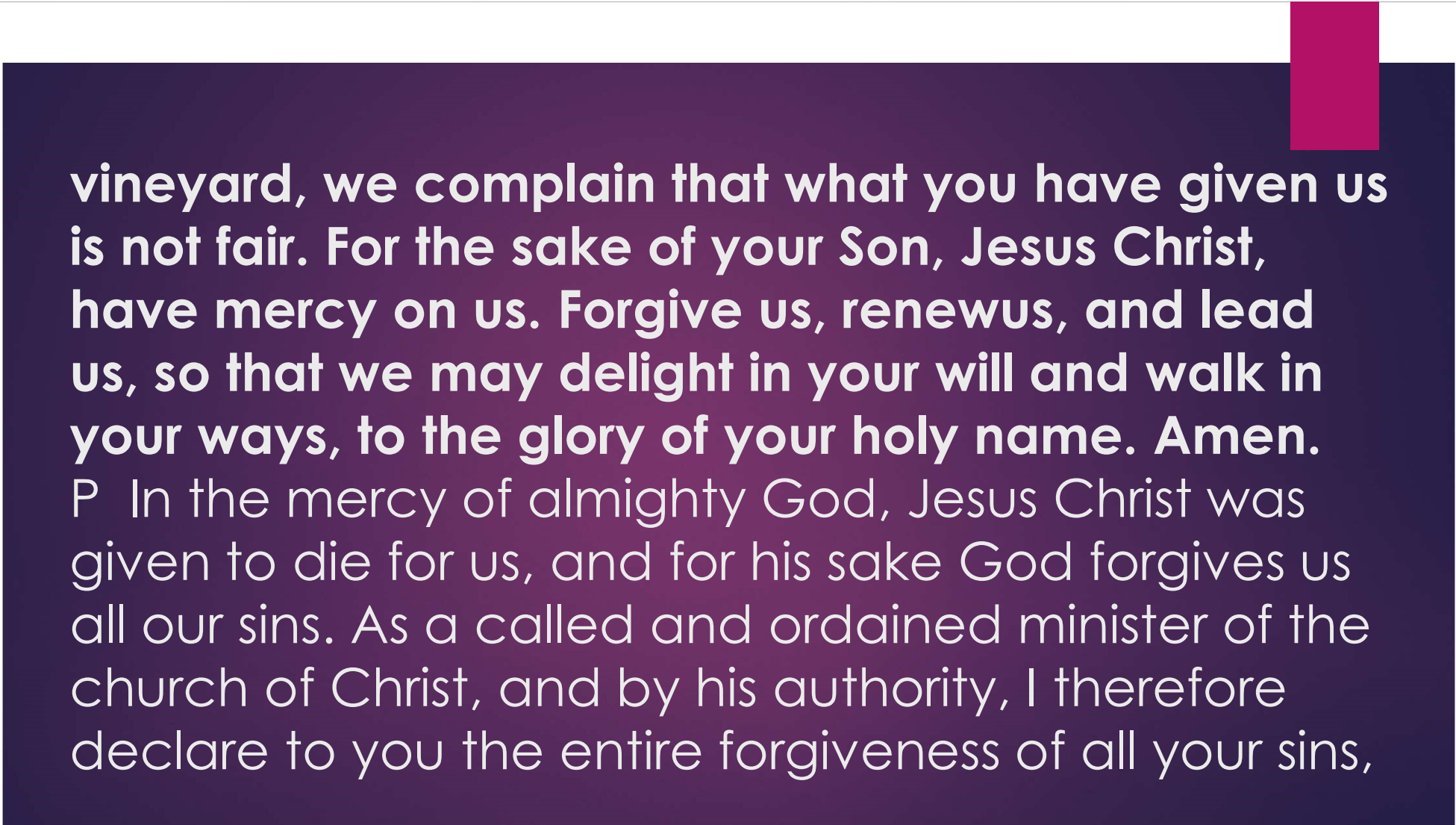


P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.


P Most merciful God...

C 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. Like the laborers in the



vineyard, we complain that what you have given us is not fair. 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.

P 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.

C Amen.



GATHERING HYMN
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”



Verse 1

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



GREETING

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**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray... ...in Jesus Christ we pray,


C **Amen**

FIRST READING


Jonah 3:10--4:11

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?"

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.


SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

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.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL


Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel...

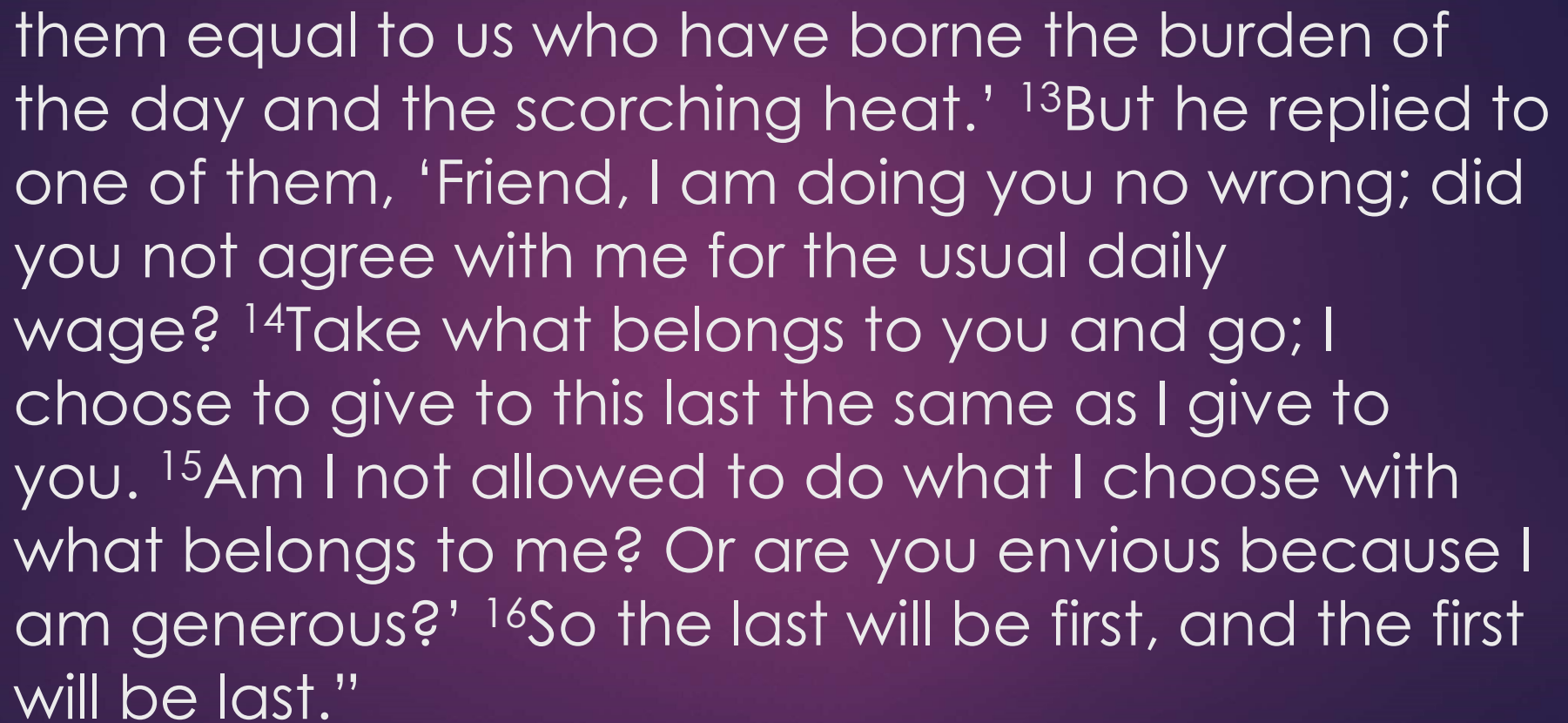
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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,² 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 The Gospel of our Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON



2004

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Living Bread from Heaven”



Verse 1

O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows.

Verse 2

My Savior, you have led me
within your holiest place,
and here yourself have fed me
with treasures of your grace;
for you have freely given
what earth could never buy,
the bread of life from heaven,
that now I shall not die.

Verse 3

You gave me all I wanted;
this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
the favor you have shown;
and all my soul and spirit
bow down before your throne.

Verse 4


Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.



APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he



ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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


P Lord, in your mercy,


C **hear our prayer.**

-Bernadette Stassen (mother of Dan Stassen, in hospice)

-Beth Kack (open heart surgery)

-Darlene Schuler (mother of Elaine Sandquist, in hospice with late stage dementia)

- 
- George Wolf (SMSU Student recovering from accident, friend of multiple SSLC members)
 - Karen Kupfer (cancer, mother of Ronda Bursell)
 - Marie Seeman (breast cancer, recovering from surgery)
 - Mary Leonard (aunt of Ashley Grams, colon cancer and urothelial carcinoma)
 - MaryJo Hennen (friend of Arlyss Hovland, diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia)
 - Michael Weiss (diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma)
 - Pastor Delwayne Hahn (former St. Stephen Interim Pastor, being treated for acute myeloid leukemia)

- 
- Phil Green (nephew of Roger Green, has ALS)
 - Rachel Hirdler (niece of Sandy Hoffbeck, continuing chemotherapy for Osteosarcoma)
 - Steve Knutson (on going treatment for Multiple Myeloma)
 - Family of Harold Krueger (grandfather of Emily Snyder)
 - Family of Jim Menk (former member of St. Stephen, served on Church Council)
 - Family of Nicole Menk Holmes (former member of St. Stephen)



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; and 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

P The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

C Amen.



SENDING HYMN
“On Our Way Rejoicing”



Verse 1

On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.

Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.

Christ without, our safety;

Christ within, our joy;

who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?



Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!



Verse 2

Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore



Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!



DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord

C **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost



8:30 A.M.
WORSHIP

*"The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard,"
by Rembrandt, 1637*

