

Jonah 3:10-4:11

The Common English Bible

¹⁰God saw what they were doing - that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it. ¹But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord, "Come on, Lord! Wasn't this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. ³At this point, Lord, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live." ⁴The Lord responded, "Is your anger a good thing?" ⁵But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city. ⁶Then the Lord God provided a shrub, and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub. ⁷But God provided a worm the next day at dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. ⁸Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, "It's better for me to die than to live." ⁹God said to Jonah, "Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?" Jonah said, "Yes, my anger is good - even to the point of death!" ¹⁰But the Lord said, "You 'pitied' the shrub, for which you didn't work and which you didn't raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹Yet for my part, can't I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can't tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105:1-6, 45b

The Common English Bible

¹Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!

²Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!

³Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!

⁴Pursue the Lord and his strength; seek his face always!

⁵Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared - ⁶you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

^{45b}Praise the Lord!

Matthew 20:1-16

The Common English Bible

¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard. ³“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵And they went. “Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. ⁶Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’ ⁷“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied. “He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ ⁹When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. ¹¹When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’ ¹³“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ ¹⁶So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”