

HOLY COMMUNION: *Setting Four, September 20, 2020*
16th Sunday after Pentecost - *modified*

GATHERING

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Song:

Jesus Loves the Little Children



Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world,
Red, brown, yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world!

(Repeat)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS - *responsive*

A As we journey by faith in our world, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

A For our indifference toward His presence in our midst,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A For our desire to control the time and seasons of our own destinies,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A For our injustices toward others – those we know and those we don't know,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A For lack of concern for those who will come after us,

C We confess to you, Lord.

A In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all of our sins. To those of us who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on us the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 574

Here I Am, Lord

“I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

REFRAIN:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.



KYRIE (*following*)

Kyrie



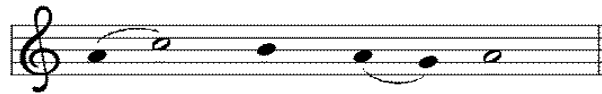
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



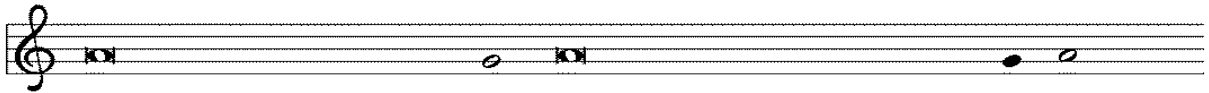
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



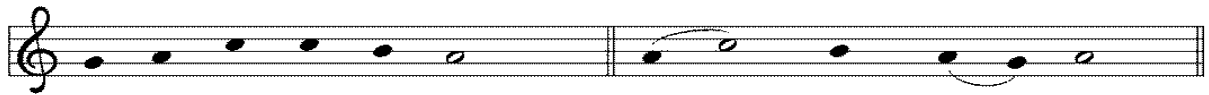
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

GOD'S WORD

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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 reading is concluded: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION for September 20, 2020

Gracious God, you are the Great Physician in all of our lives. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the corona virus, healing all who are sick with this virus. Give courage and strength to all of us through this time. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God: comfort, heal and restore the thousands of residents and businesses in Midland and Gladwin counties affected by the two failed damns that caused wide spread flooding throughout these mid-Michigan communities. Lord in your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, lead our President and Congress towards reconciliation and mutual collaboration for the good of our country's future as 'one nation under God'. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, continue to equip our church council, our church committees and the whole congregation in carrying out the ministries of Your Church. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the sick, the homebound, those grieving loved ones who have died, those listed in our church bulletin prayer list and those we lift up this morning, either silently or out loud... Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, hear the prayers of your people today and always. **Amen!**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

(Assisting Minister)

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsive)*

A God of our ancestors, friend in our midst,
your children come before you.
Here is food! Here is drink!
These things are yours before they are ours.
Now we are making a feast, but it is a thanksgiving:
God, we are thanking you.
With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts in heaven,
O God, we thank you and rejoice.
This food - we shall eat it in your honor!
This drink - we shall drink it in your honor!

A We thank you for giving us life.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for giving us freedom.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for bringing us peace.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for the one who bore our sins upon the cross.

C We thank you!

A We thank you for the one who brought us over from death to life.

C We thank you!

A Father, send the Spirit of life, The Spirit of power and fruitfulness.

With the Spirit's breath, speak your word into these things.

Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus,
life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body.

Give us true communion with your Son.

P On the night of his suffering,

he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands.

This bread he shared among his followers, saying:

'All of you, take this, eat this;

it is my body, handed over for you.

Do this and remember me.'

C The body of Christ! Amen.

P Then he shared drink with them, saying:

'All of you, take this, drink this; it is my blood, the blood of the
new covenant that begins now and lasts forever.

This blood is poured out for you and for all people so that sins
may be taken away. Do this and remember me.'

C The blood of Christ! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all is prepared.

Amen.

COMMUNION

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

Amen.

(Assisting Minister)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine on us and
be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with great favor and give... us
peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 742

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear -
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE