

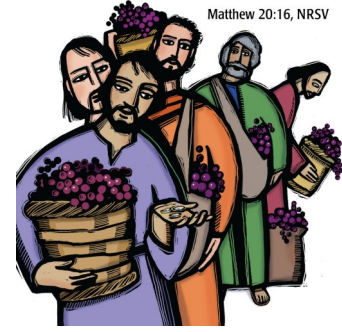


Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Epiphany Parish
September 24, 2023
10:00am - Rite II

We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another and to include all people through our fellowship, education & outreach.

The service begins on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer

So the **last**
 will be **FIRST**,
 and the **first**
 will be **LAST**.
 Matthew 20:16, NRSV



The Prelude

The Opening Hymn

H#544 Jesus shall reign where're the sun

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

p 355

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

p 355

The Gloria

found in the front portion of the 1982 Hymnal - Hymnal S-280

The Collect (in unison) Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh 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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He 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. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then 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.

The 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When 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."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then 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. And 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.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

Exaltabo te, Deus

- ¹ I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- ⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

H#660 O Master, let me walk with thee

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 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.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' 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? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Christen H. Mills

The Nicene Creed

p 358

The Prayers of the People (Form VI)

p 392

The Confession of Sin

p 359

The Peace

The Offertory Hymn

H#541 Come, labor on

The Offering and Doxology *(sung)*

Hymnal 380 (verse 3)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures, here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen



Eucharistic Prayer B

p 367

Sanctus

found in the front portion of the 1982 Hymnal - Hymnal S-125

The Lord's Prayer

p 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion Hymn

H#382 King of glory, King of peace

The Post Communion Prayer

p 365

The Blessing

Welcome & Announcements

The Closing Hymn

H#690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

The Dismissal

The Postlude

Invitation for Spiritual Communion

This prayer is a personal prayer that you can say when you desire communion but are unable to receive the sacrament.. Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. Amen

Our Worship is over ~ Our Ministry begins

You are welcome to join us for coffee and snacks immediately following the service.

All are welcome!