

Welcome to Worship
September 24th, 2023

Prelude

Hymn Tune "Nicaea" ~ Healey Willan

Gathering Hymn

Rise Up, O Saints of God! ~ ELW 669

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.**

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

Word of God. Word of life

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another

and shall declare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,

and I will recount your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel**Matthew 20:1-16**

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:] "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 a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 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 a denarius? 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."

Hymn of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy ~ ELW 587

Musical Offering

*Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ~ Michael Joncas & Brian A. Wren
(All Saints Choir)*

Offertory Hymn

In the Singing ~ ELW 466

Communion Hymn

How Small Our Span of Life ~ ELW 636

Sending Hymn

God's Work, Our Hands ~ ACS 1000

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! ~ Healey Willan