



23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

## *Jonah and God's Mercy*

*God's mercy gushed all over this story,  
even though Jonah was too wrapped up in himself to see it.*

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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### Announcements

### Call to Worship

Our God seeks and sees the good and potential in everyone  
more than we ever can.

Our God's compassion knows no limit.

In this knowledge we can come,  
we can leave behind the things which hold us back  
and simply accept—

God loves, and so we worship

### Gathering Music

*Lord, Please Lead*

*For it is You who light my lamp; the Lord my God, lightens my darkness.*

### Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

God of the covenant,

**You have never failed in your promises to us, but we often fail to be your faithful people. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love.**

God hears us when we repent and is quick to pardon our failures. Hear the words of your forgiveness and believe that you have been restored by your creator's great mercy and compassion. Rejoice! **Amen.**

## Opening Song

### *It Is Well*

**Grander earth has quaked before  
Moved by the sound of His voice  
And seas that are shaken and stirred  
Can be calmed and broken for my regard**

#### *Chorus*

***And through it all through it all My eyes are on You  
And through it all through it all It is well  
And through it all through it all  
My eyes are on You  
And it is well with me***

**Far be it from me to not believe  
Even when my eyes can't see  
And this mountain that's in front of me  
Will be thrown into the midst of the sea**

#### *Chorus*

***So let go my soul and trust in Him  
The waves and wind still know His name (3x)***

**It is well with my soul  
It is well with my soul  
It is well with my soul  
It is well it is well with my soul**

**Through it all through it all my eyes are on You  
Through it all through it all, It is well  
Through it all through it all my eyes are on you  
And it is well....with me**

# Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,

You show abundant mercy even when we cannot see the purpose of it. Give us your heart for compassion and love for all of your children, regardless of who or where they may be, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

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*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song*

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*When God called on Jonah to proclaim destruction to his mortal enemies, Jonah tried to flee.  
But even in the deep, dark sea God found him and granted him a second chance.  
God went on to give a second chance to Nineveh, too. Everyone God encountered here was filled  
with the abundance of God's mercy.*

## Invitation to the Word

Father Grant

**Father grant, that what we sing with our lips,  
We may believe in our hearts.  
And what we believe in our hearts,  
We may show forth in our lives.  
Through the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Scripture Reading

**Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10, 4:1-11**

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. <sup>4</sup>But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish." <sup>7</sup>The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, "Tell us why this

calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" <sup>9</sup>"I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." <sup>10</sup>Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the Lord, "Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." <sup>15</sup>So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. <sup>8</sup>Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"  
<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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?"

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Message

## Special Music

*O Give Thanks*

## 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.**

*Sung before prayers*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

As self-absorbed and evasive as Jonah was, you still used him to powerfully and effectively proclaim your word of grace. Likewise use us despite our flaws and resistance to your call, for the fulfillment of your mission in the world.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

In times of change or upheaval, we are tempted to withdraw and be concerned only for ourselves. Open us to our neighbors, especially those with whom we disagree, and encourage us to seek understanding across lines of belief and loyalties.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The seas are once again crying out against the injustices which have been done to them. Empower all those working to clean the earth's oceans and prevent further loss and damage to your beautiful creation.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Self-absorption separates us from the healing blessings of community and mutual support. Help us reach out to those who have isolated themselves and use us to spread your spirit's healing grace. Be especially this day with those whom we lift up by name...

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Your departed saints are gone only from our sight, not really separated from us in spirit. Keep us bound together in ties of love and bring us to that day when we will all be reunited in your kingdom.

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*Other petitions may be offered.*

Receive our prayers and assure us of your unfailing mercy which is ours through Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## Offering of Gifts

Generous and abundant God,  
You faithfully, graciously and abundantly provide for all life, including our own. From your abundance, we joyfully offer our financial, talent and time gifts, that you first gave us, and we pray you bless your kingdom, our neighbors, both near and around the globe. In your faithful name, we pray. Amen.

## 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.  
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.**

## Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**    *Lord Whose Love in Humble Service*    Red ELW 712 vv. 1,2,4

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**

**Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

## Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*We Are the Reason*

- Meese & Barker



### Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Assisting Minister: Denise Ikenberry
- Liturgy leaders: Lisa Grimm, Judy Ekberg, Pam & Paul Thomas,  
Mike Madsen, Edgar, Jade & Gavin Tomlinson & Youth
- Scripture Reading: Cutter Nunley, Matthew Mohrbacher, Kat Patterson  
Lindsey Bosak – Simmons, Rachel Sais, Karen Novess
- Opening & Song after Message: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Prayer Music: Jordan Ortman
- Sending Song: Dave Gleason, Denise Ikenberry, Barb Hessel, Susie DiPaolo  
Amy Evancheck, Brenda Gleason, Jackie TeKrony,  
Linda TeKrony, Eric Kurtz, Scott Ikenberry
- Postlude: Meredith Lusby
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony