

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 25 A

September 20, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 25 A

We like to keep score. If our team wins by a point, we rejoice and claim victory. But our relationships dissolve when we count up little mistakes, losing trust and patience. God isn't interested in playing counting games. In the realm of God, mercy is freely given to those who come late, as well as to those who have labored for many hours or years, poured out on all God's children like the manna and quail that fed God's people – both good and not so good – in the wilderness.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. **Start the video by clicking here**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: Improvisation on "How Beautiful, O God, How Good"

Recorded on Thursday, September 17, 2020, Cantor David Cherwien, organist.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 688, "Lord of Light"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, year C, February 9, 2020.

Word

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Apostolic greeting is on the video)

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: Exodus 16:2-15; reader – Sue Browender, lector

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

Recorded by members of the Cantorei on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

¹Give thanks to the LORD and call up-¹ on God’s name; * make known the deeds of the LORD a-¹ mong the peoples.

²Sing to the¹ LORD, sing praises, * and speak of all God’s¹ marvelous works.

³Glory in God’s¹ holy name; * let the hearts of those who seek the¹ LORD rejoice.

⁴Search for the strength¹ of the LORD; * continually¹ seek God’s face.

⁵Remember the marvels¹ God has done, * the wonders and the judgments¹ of God’s mouth,

⁶O offspring of Abra-¹ ham, God’s servant, * O children of Jacob, God’s¹ chosen ones.

³⁷You led out your people with sil-¹ ver and gold; * in all their tribes there was not¹ one that stumbled.

³⁸Egypt was glad to¹ see them go, * because they were a-¹ fraid of them.

³⁹You spread out a cloud¹ for a covering * and a fire to give¹ light by night.

⁴⁰They asked, and¹ you brought quail, * and satisfied them with¹ bread from heaven.

⁴¹You opened the rock, and¹ water flowed, * so the river ran in¹ the dry places.

⁴²For you remembered your¹ holy word * and Abra-¹ ham your servant.

⁴³So you led forth your peo-¹ ple with gladness, * your chosen with¹ shouts of joy.

⁴⁴You gave your people the lands¹ of the nations, * and they took the fruit of¹ others’ toil,

⁴⁵that they might¹ keep your statutes * and observe your teachings.¹ Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30; reader – Vicar Andrea Bonneville, assisting minister

Paul writes: ²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174, “Celtic Alleluia” *Sung before and after the Gospel reading.*

Sung at Mount Olive on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 B, August 5, 2018.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to the disciples: “For 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. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 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.' ¹³ 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?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERMON

Enough

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection

HYMN, "How Beautiful, O God, How Good"

Sung at Mount Olive on the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 32 B, November 8, 2015.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Vicar Andrea Bonneville, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See: <https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 881, "Let All Things Now Living"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Day of Thanksgiving, November 28, 2019.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☞ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Improvisation

Recorded on Thursday, September 17, 2020, Cantor David Cherwien, organist.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; John Wall, Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Dan & Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, Reba Zumberge, relatives of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Nancy Stelling, friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Logan Bushaw, friend of Allen & Lora Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Todd Erickson, friend of Jean & Doug Parish; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Scott Kingman, father of Anna Scott; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Trisha Niemi-Haapoja, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes, Jan Harper (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay); Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.
- **In hospice care:** Dan Adams.
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Nicholas Johnson and Andrew Andersen.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**
September 21: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist - Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.