



The Kingdom of God:
God's Radical Way to See What
Matters
Matthew 20:1-16

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020

Jon Pedersen, Pastor
Ellen D. Schroll, Minister of Music
Sue Hoff, Vicar
David Rhodes, Organist

Prelude

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

By Max Reger

Invocation

L: We begin in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Order of Confession and Forgiveness *“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”*

P: Reconciling God,

C: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.

Amen.

P: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 judgement, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children’s Message

Vicar Sue

Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

‘For 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 market-place; 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.’

L: Word of God, Word of Light **C: Thanks Be to God!**

Anthem

“Now We Thank You, Lord”

By Douglas Nolan

Message

Pastor Jon Pedersen

Commissioning the Congregational LEAD Team

Presentation

This LEAD team is embarking on a journey as a group of explorers from our congregation to learn and experiment with new ways to listen to God, listen to one another, and listen to our neighbors. We are sending them out to forge new pathways for joining Christ who is already ahead of us. We look forward to how their insights and experiences will shape our life together for the sake of our neighbors and the world.

Address and Questions

A reading from Luke. After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' (*Luke 10:1-9*)

A reading from Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight.

A reading from Second Corinthians. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. *2 Cor. 5:7-20*

The presiding minister questions those being commissioned.

In the presence of this assembly, will you accept this commission and commit yourselves to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response:

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

People of God,

Will you support the work of these explorers as they forge new paths to join in the work of Jesus Christ?

Will you pray for *them*, help and honor *them* for *their* work's sake, and in all things strive to live in peace and unity in Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Prayer

Let us pray.

O God, you found us at the river and made us your own in the waters of baptism. Our lives continue to flow in endless songs of praise and witness to your glorious love.

Look with favor upon these explorers.
Make them strong in your promises.
Open their ears and their hearts to listen to you,
to one another and to our neighbors.
Help them to see you at work,
and to be bold in finding ways to join in to what you are up to.
Stir up in them the gifts of welcome
and of curious engagement with their neighborhoods,
That they might help us all to continue as a faithful community,
Loving you above all things, and their neighbors as themselves.
Amen.

Almighty God guide, bless, and keep you, that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been commissioned. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sending Hymn *"On Our Way Rejoicing"*

Sending

L: You have been called. You have been gathered (digitally). You have been equipped. Now you are being sent. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Salvation Now Has Come to Us"

By Max Reger

***Zoom Coffee Hour
Right After the 10:30am Watch Party Sunday
Please join us!***

Virtual Coffee Hour

