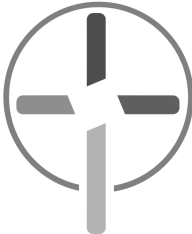


	September 20, 2026 8:30 a.m.	
	17th Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 25, Year A)	
		Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1800 21 st Avenue Greeley, Colorado 80631 Phone: (970) 352-4816 Web: greeleylutheran.org

Introduction: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

• GATHERING •

Welcome and Prelude • "He Has Done Marvelous Things"

* Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

** Indicates to stand as you're able*

* Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.**

* Gathering Hymn • ELW 401: "Gracious Spirit, Hear Our Pleading" (Verses 1-3)

• WORD •

1st Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Reader: Laurel LaBonde

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² 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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ 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.

⁶ 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ 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."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8 (*Read responsively with leader*)

Reader: Gene Plampin

¹ I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.

² I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever.

³ Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.

⁴ Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.

⁵ I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles.

⁶ Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.

⁷ Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love

Anthem

"Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord" (ELW 875)
Sanctuary Choir | Jonah Stadtmueller, Djembe

* Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Response after the announcement: "Glory to you, O Lord!"

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 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 a denarius? 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."

Response after the reading: "Praise to you, O Christ!"

Children's Message

Sermon

"Grace isn't Fair" — Deacon Linda Akers
Silence for reflection.

* Hymn of the Day • ELW 588: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Verses 1-2: all | Verse 3: Choir only in canon | Verse 4: all

* 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 again 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.

Prayers of the People

After each petition:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In our prayers

Healing and strength for Henry Rosin

Sympathy and comfort for the families of: Marjorie Fergus (Maggie Hickman's grandmother), Mary Mackenzie (Helen Mackenzie's Mother-In-Law)

* Peace:

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

Making a Difference Moment: Greeley Habitat for Humanity (*Speaker: Laura Jones*)

• MEAL •

* Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



* Words of Institution

* The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Holy Communion

Welcome to God's table, where all are invited to receive communion. Come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. For those who wish, white grape juice is available in the center cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Adults and children who are not communing may come forward for a blessing

Communion Hymns • ACS 967: "This is Christ's Body" | ELW 609: "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (Verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

Blessing and Prayer after Communion

• SENDING •

* Blessing:

Response: Amen.

* Sending Hymn • ELW 707: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" (Verses 1, 2, 4)

Announcements and Dismissal • *Response: "Thanks be to God!"*

Postlude

Thank you to Ron and Carrie Randolph for sponsoring today's complimentary coffee and cookies in honor of their 31st wedding anniversary!

Assisting in Worship:

Pastor: Rev. Deb Abbott
Deacon: Linda Akers
Music Director: Cody Thomas
Communion Assistants: Bernie Ruesgen, Cindy Ververs,
Linda Akers, Russ DeVriendt

Ushers: Cindy Ververs, Mary Pickering
Sound Technician: Christian Leidholm
Camera Operator: Josh Matthews
Projection: Holden Packard
Altar Guild: Kristy Munch and Cindy Wolf

Scripture readings next Sunday: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32