

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

This Sunday, the readings explore the radical extent of God's grace that defies and transcends the logic of a human sense of fairness. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday**.

## **RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 20, 2020  
Our Common Prayer at Home**

*You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman’s sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.*

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

*Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:*

## **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11**

A reading from Jonah.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them; and God did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>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.**

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:*

*Music may be found at:*

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200920/playlist>

## **PSALM 145:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
There is no end | to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power.
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count your greatness.
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

A reading from Philippians.

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“The dominion of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>“When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>“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.’<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.<sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.<sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,<sup>12</sup> 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.’<sup>13</sup> 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?’<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

*The old story goes that Jonah does not want Israel’s ancient enemies forgiven for he does not think they deserve it. Then, in Matthew’s parable, the first workers, expecting that they themselves should get more, do not think the latecomers deserve full pay. Do we draw lines about who is deserving and who not? The gospel is always teaching us that if we draw a line to exclude someone, Jesus Christ is always on the other side of the line: in the cross he is with the unsalaried, the suffering poor, the sinners, the enemies, even the threatened animals. And he is risen to give away mercy to all, to give enough to live this day. The justice and “fairness” of God is mercy. And none of us is deserving. We, too, are latecomers — beggars for life — and God’s gift is for us all, without distinction. Such mercy gives us an utterly new way to see the world.*

*At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200920/playlist>*

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200920/playlist>

## HYMN OF THE DAY #845

### Voices Raised to You

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with  
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -  
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;  
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuenkel Jr., b. 1923  
 Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936  
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*Then pray these intercessions:*

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “graciously hear our prayer.”

*A brief silence.*

O God, you make the last first, and the first last. Give resources and courage to the churches around the globe that have few resources. When in this time ministry seems so difficult, inspire for their service our bishops, pastors, and congregational leaders.

*A brief silence.*

O holy God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

Continue your care for your whole creation: sun and wind, bushes and worms, cities and farms, and all your many animals. Make us into extensions of your care. Preserve the food sources of the world’s endangered wildlife.

*A brief silence.*

O mighty God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

To places of conflict and violence, bring peace, especially to the cities of our nation. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Preserve protesters, and guide police. Enlighten our nation, the nations we call friends, and the nations that are deemed our enemies. Keep our election season from dishonesty.

*A brief silence.*

O peace-making God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

Give your blessing to the Jewish people at this time of their new year. Bring an end to anti-Semitism around the globe, and strengthen peace efforts in the Middle East.

*A brief silence.*

O faithful God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

To all who are suffering, show your mercy. We pray for firefighters, for communities devastated by fire, for all who suffer racial injustice, for migrants who seek safety, for all who are imprisoned, for victims of crime, for the unemployed, for

students and faculty during the pandemic, for medical workers, for all who are hungry: O God, the list of the needy is so long. . . .

*A brief silence.*

O merciful God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

Give health and wholeness to all who are sick, to all who are suffering from the coronavirus, to Don Hansen, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Lyle Kubly, Jack Mulloy, Gretchen Zeltner, Charlotte Boeck and to those we name before you here:

*A brief silence.*

O healing God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

You show mercy beyond our expectations, far beyond our deserving. Hear now our personal prayers.

*A longer period of silence.*

O loving God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

We praise you for all the saints, especially this week for the apostle Matthew and for the gift of his gospel that speaks to us of your goodness. Give us grace to live for Christ, until we join with all the faithful in your eternal life.

*A brief silence.*

O everlasting God, you are full of compassion:  
**graciously hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200920/playlist>

## HYMN # 688

### Lord of Light

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

*Refrain*

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.  
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991  
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*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

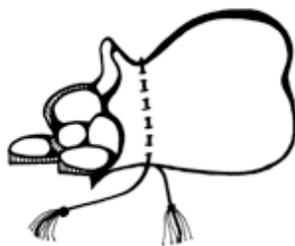
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**



*We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let this food to us be blessed.  
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,  
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

**Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** (Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist) Matthew 9:9-13. **Tuesday** Romans 16:17-20.

**Wednesday** Matthew 18:1-5. **Thursday** Psalm 25:1-9. **Friday** Ezekiel 18:5-18.

**Saturday** Ezekiel 18:19-24. **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

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