

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.



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HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427
Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net Email: office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: "Grounded in Christ's love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God's love through worship, service, and fellowship."

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am on Facebook "LIVE"
at facebook.com/holynativitynewhope,
and Wednesday worship outdoors in-person at 6:30pm
(through the end of September)!

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ashley Updegraff, Associate Pastor
Iver Hubert, Director of Music & Worship
Lisa Baker, Organist & Communications Coordinator
Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director
Linda Lien, Congregational Care Coordinator & Funeral Coordinator
Wendy Grimes, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Wiblishauser,
Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up
Kara Holt, Financial Coordinator
Amy Laite, Sunday Nursery Coordinator
Tawn Hanson, Wedding Coordinator
Brittany Anderson, Director of Week-Day
Childcare Center (hncccc.org)

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Quote: "Envy has eaten out my heart"
–Mary Gordon

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray, and reflect on why we are here.

GATHERING MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Tom Fettke

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

WE PRAISE GOD

GATHERING HYMN

"Blessing and Honor"
(verses 1 & 4)

Hymnal #854

1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and
2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the

rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our
earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and
robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the

bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we
Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to

throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

KYRIE – “Lord Have Mercy”

Assistant: (sings verses) In peace, in peace...

Assistant:

Congregation sings refrain:



Let us pray — to the Lord, have mer - cy,

(Refrain)



Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have

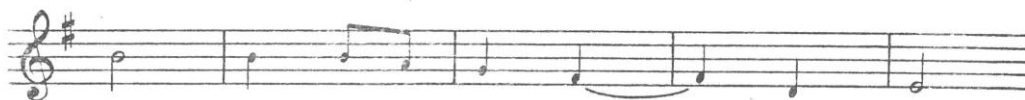


mer - cy. _____

Assistant: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all. Let us pray to the Lord... (Refrain repeats)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word. Let us pray to the Lord...(Refrain repeats)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, ——— O God.

Congregation: (sings ‘Amen’)



A - - - - men.

(Congregation sings refrain to begin and after each verse)

Congregation:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Assistant sings verses 1-4:

1. You are God; we praise you. You are lord; we acclaim you. You are God eternal; all creation worships you.
2. All the angels in the heavens chant your praise in endless song: Holy, holy, holy God of power and might.
3. Thee apostles all praise you. All the prophets acclaim you. All the martyrs and your faithful people worship you.
4. God, Creator, we praise you. Jesus the Christ, we adore you. Spirit of the Living God, we worship you.

SALUTATION (Before the Prayer of the Day)

Presider:

Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison) 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.
(please be seated)

*Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along; Lauda, Laude.
Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things. For God is the simplest of all.*

*I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing His praises while I live all of my days.*

*Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Blessed is the man who praises Him. Lauda, Lauda, Laude.
And walks in His ways. I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help.*

*I will lift up my voice to the Lord singing Lauda, Laude.
For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand.*

*And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Laude. And walks in His ways
Lauda, Lauda, Laude...All of my days..*

GOD'S WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

^{3:10} 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. ^{4:1} 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. 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?"

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—
³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE

“Alleluia ”

Red Folder Pg. 15

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor: The gospel reading according to Matthew... Cong.: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

¹ "For 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 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."

Pastor: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... **Congregation: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

SERMON

"It's not fair."

Rev. Ashley Updegraff

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal Pg. 105

C: 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.

OFFERING/CHILDREN'S TIME

(You are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at holynativity.net and click on "Make Donation." Thank you!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) **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 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**

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

"This Little Light of Mine"

setting, Bradley Sowash

Flowers by the altar are in honor of the confirmands.

WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p>Sunday, September 20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship (online) 10:30am Youth (7th – 9th grade) Forum (online) 11:00am Confirmation Service (outside; for confirmation families only) 1:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>	<p>Thursday, September 24 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm</p>
<p>Monday, September 21 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 6:00pm – 7:00pm Centering Prayer (on Zoom) 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Friday, September 25 Office Hours 9:00am – 1:00pm 7:00pm Word of Life Choir</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 22 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 10:00am Bible Study (patio) 2:30pm Staff Meeting (on Zoom)</p>	<p>Saturday, September 26</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 23 Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 11:15am HNCCCC Chapel</p> <p>6:30pm Outdoor Worship with Plant & Produce Swap 7:00pm Confirmation (hybrid)</p>	<p>Sunday, September 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship (online) 10:30am Adult Forum (online) 10:30am High School (10th – 12th grade) Forum (online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>
<p>PRISM is accepting food donations Monday to Thursday, 9-3. Items in short supply are ramen noodles, pasta, pancake mix and breakfast cereal. Also see school supplies drive information below! September’s Mission Offering is designated to KIDPACK. KidPack fights hunger in our school community by providing a supplemental weekend meal to the families of young school children in need.</p>	

TODAY...

Education Hour returns!

- **Sunday School** begins online and all registered families will be emailed information! Families, if you haven’t already – [register your kids online by clicking here](#) or visit holynativity.net.
- **Adult and Youth/High School Forums** begin! Today we’ll have our first Youth Forum (7th – 9th grades) at 10:30am online. Next week will be the first High School (10th – 12th grade) Forum online, then the Youth and High School forums (7-9 and 10-12) will continue alternating Sundays. Youth will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays and High School will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Confirmation Service! We will be confirming last year’s 9th graders at an outdoor service today at 11:00am, as their original Confirmation day was postponed due to Covid. This service is only for these students and their families, in order to keep it a safe size.

THIS WEEK...

Centering Prayer is meeting every Monday from 6:00-7:00pm on Zoom. If you’re interested in participating, contact Kari Johnson at karijohnson1@hotmail.com.

Holy Nativity face masks are here! Order [online](#) via this link, or shop in person at the Renewal Fair or before and after worship on Wednesday nights. Masks are \$12 and all proceeds benefit the youth of Holy Nativity. Any questions, contact Wendy at 763-639-3735 or wendy.grimes@yahoo.com.



Wednesday worship continues through September, and Plant and Produce Swap! Wednesday outdoor worship continues at 6:30pm. Also, for the rest of the month, we're setting up a table at each Wednesday outdoor service for a plant and produce swap! If you are interested, you are invited to share the surplus from your garden, plants, baked goods and canned items!

Scripture readers needed for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night outdoor worship! Readers come to church in-person for both. Please sign up here:

Sundays: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48afad2fa4fb6-scripture1>

Wednesdays: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48afad2fa4fb6-scripture2>

MORE INFORMATION...

Volunteers needed at The Food Group in New Hope! They are seeking volunteers for one-time shifts at various times during the week. Sign up individually or in groups up to 14. Social distancing and safety measures are in place. The minimum volunteer age is 16. Sign-up through the following website: <https://thefoodgroupmn.volunteerhub.com/events/index>.

The Holy Christian Child Care Center has openings for children in all classrooms (age six weeks through five years) for the fall. Contact Brittany at 763-591-0681.

Our Holy Nativity September Mission Offering will be designated for KidPack! Weekly Kid Pack meals will continue to be an important supplement to many families in our school district. Although students will not be present in the school for the first several months, they will continue to need the supplemental meals that we have generously provided in past years—probably more now than ever before! Thank You for your generosity! Contact Nancy Van Heel at nmvanheel@gmail.com or 763-559-1190 for questions or further information.

Thank you for your continued financial support! During this time of online and outdoor worship, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

1. **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).
2. **Put your offering in the offering plate** at our Wednesday night outdoor worship services.
3. **Give online** via [our link](#). (Or just go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.”)
4. **Ask the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals.

Today's cantor: Cresta Hubert
Today's scripture reader: Keith Ehrenberg

People & needs to keep in your prayers this week: Geri Lingen, family of Ardis Grimes
If you have a prayer request or update, or wish to be added to our prayer group,
please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or office@holynativity.net.