“So the last shall be first and the first shall be last.” Matthew 20:1-16

Church of Our Saviour

“Our Mission: to live out the gospel by transforming lives and neighborhoods in partnership, with innovation, and with compassion.”

September 20, 2020
10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett, Rector
Peter Wright, Choir Director
Michael McGroarty, Musician
We invite you to experience God’s love and ours. We are a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We are bound together by our common liturgy, not a rigid set of doctrines. So how we sing and pray and relate to one another is very important to us. Wherever you are on your journey, we have a place for you and invite you to make your place with us. Come share our joys and sorrows as we share in yours. God is alive for everyone here regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or life history. Join singles, couples, partners and families of every description that make up our community of faith. Rejoice with us in our diversity.

Parish Prayer

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of Our Saviour be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Welcome, Guests

If you are joining us online for the first time this morning, we hope you will consider making Church of Our Saviour your church home during this period of suspended in-person worship.
Liturgy of the Word
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20

♪♪ Prelude:

Ringing of the “Welcome” Bell

♪♪ Opening Hymn

WLP #761  All who hunger gather gladly

1. All who hun-ger gather glad-ly; ho-ly man-na
2. All who hun-ger, nev-er stran-gers, seek-er, be a
3. All who hun-ger, sing to-geth-er, Je-sus Christ is

is our bread. Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d’ring.
wel-come guest. Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing.
 liv-ing bread. Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing.

Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who

days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion’s love have stood.
from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

(Continued on next page)
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see the grace eternal.

Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see that God is good.

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)

1. All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wan-d’ring.
2. All who hunger, never strangers, seek-er, be a welcome guest. Come from rest-lessness and roaming.
3. All who hunger, sing to-geth-er, Je-sus Christ is living bread. Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing.
Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of full-ness, all around us is our food.
Here, in joy we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion’s love have stood.
Here, in peace, we have been fed. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen

♪♪ Hymn of Praise  Hallelujah! We sing your praises!  WLP #784

(Continued on next page)
Presider: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Presider: Let us pray
The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Response: Amen

First Reading  
Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh 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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 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.

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

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 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. 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?"

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God

Psalm 145:1-8

The cantor will chant the refrain first and then the congregation will join in

Exaltabo te, Deus

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.  Refrain

3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.  Refrain

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.  Refrain
7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness. 

Refrain

Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God
Come labor on

1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand idle
2. Come, la-bor on. The en-e-my is
3. Come, la-bor on. A-way with gloom-y
4. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call-ing
5. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till

1. on the har-vest plain, while all ar-round us
2. watch-ing night and day, to sow the tares, to
3. doubts and faith-less fear! No arm so weak but
4. an-gels can-not share— to young and old the
5. glows the west-ern sky, till the long sha-dows

1. waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser-vant
2. snatch the seed a-way; while we in sleep our
3. may do ser-vice here: by feeb-lest a-gents
4. Gos-pel glad-ness bear: re-deem the time; its
5. o’er our path-way lie, and a glad sound comes

1. does the Mas-ter say, “Go work to-day.”
2. du-ty have for-got, he slum-bered not.
3. may our God ful-fill his right-eous will.
4. hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.
5. with the set-ting sun, “Ser-vants, well done.”
Holy Gospel – The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew

People’s Response before the Gospel Proclamation: Glory to You, Lord Christ

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, “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 marketplace; 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.”

People’s Response following the Gospel Proclamation: Praise to You, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett
The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God” (BCP p. 851).

We say these words as a gathered community to affirm our belief in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation, as the source of life and holiness. God has blessed humanity with relationships and community which are part of God’s own essence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We do not say these words as some sort of litmus test but as an invitation to wrestle with the mystery and complexity of God with generations of Christians who have gone before us and with generations who will come after us.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Prayers of the People**

Intercessor: Central to every gathering of Christians for worship is intercessory prayer. Our prayer is always for the church and the world.

Intercessor: With the whole people of God in Christ, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence*

Intercessor: Generous God, you claim us as your own and your church declares your greatness. Make all who serve you, firm in one spirit. Bless and strengthen our Presiding Bishop Michael, our bishops Mark, William, and Arthur and our priest Debra in their proclamation of the gospel. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: The goodness of your creation is a celebration of your mighty acts. Enable us to appreciate the smallest to the largest of wonders and to be worthy stewards of all your gifts. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: People of all nations sing aloud of your righteousness. Incite us to commit acts of peace, break down barriers, crush complacency, and stand up to intolerance. We pray for peace in those areas where there is strife and for the
President, his advisors and members of all branches of the U.S. government and our state and local government. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: Strengthen those who suffer (especially… Christopher, David, Pam, Susan, Christine, Joe, Chris, Derwood, Ruth, Judy, Glynn, Patricia, Patty, Tom, Danny, Emily, Rob, Jeff, Mikey, Anthony, Norma, Clarence, Dan, Steve, Leslie, Nancy R., Marilyn M., Bill, Marsha, Roger, William, Mitchell, Helen, Richard S., Bob, Kym, Preston, Kelly, Stephanie, Joslyn, Mia, Virginia, Michelle, Chris D., Randy and Helen, Raymond, Katie, Robin, Fred, Susan S., Judy, Richard and Joyce Metz, Shirley W., Sandy, Ramon, Jessica, Tim, Dianne, Kylie, Nakiim, The Merton Family, Nancy, Hannah, Mary, Julie, Amy, David, Karly, Mid, Christina, Jeff, Richard D., Tammy, David S., Michael D., Scott, Karen, Chuck, Mike, Ebony & the First Energy crew, Linda & Bill & family, Aunt Abbie, Eve & Katie, the People of El Salvador, Linda & family, the Cooper family, Elvera, Coteat family, Taneisha & family, Rita, the victims of the western wildfires, Donna C., and Shawn, Betty & the Brady Family, and Dina & James). Transform pain into purpose, sorrow into courage, fear into generosity, and loneliness into compassion. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: Bring comfort and grace to all those affected by the COVID-19 contagion, especially parents of children home from school, people dependent on food pantries, the homeless, students & teachers, health care workers & first responders, daycare workers and funeral directors. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: We pray for our seminarians Megan and Jon and all seminarians as they continue their discernment toward ordination. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*
Intercessor: O God, you care for all your people, watch over all those serving in the military. May they feel your peace and protection. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: Transform pain into purpose, sorrow into courage, fear into generosity, and loneliness into compassion. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor says: *(You may add other intercessions - silently or aloud)*, Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Intercessor: The lives of your saints are evidence of your salvation. Give meaning to all our days, then grant us peaceful deaths and unite us with those we love in praising your name. We pray for all the faithful departed, let light perpetual shine upon them. Hear us, O God,

*People: For your mercy is great.*

Presider: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

*People: Amen*

**Confession of Sin**

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*
Minister and People
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen

The Absolution

The priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen

The Peace “The Peace of Christ be always with you”

Response: “And also with you”

Commemorative Prayers

The priest offers prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant events

Announcements
The Lord’s Prayer

People and Presider

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, 
for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for an Election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (or of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing
Closing Hymn

WLP #778  We are all one in mission  Nyland

1. We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for service to witness in God’s name.
3. We all behold one vision, a stark reality;
4. Now let us be united and let our song be heard.

our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
the steward of salvation was nailed upon a tree.
Now let us be a vessel for God’s redeeming Word.

(Continued on next page)
A single, great commission compels us from above to touch the lives of others by God’s surprising grace, yet resurrected justice gives rise that we may share we all are one in mission, we all are one in call, to plan and work together that all may know Christ’s love, so people of all nations may feel God’s warm embrace. free reconciliation and hope amid despair. our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Dismissal

Response: Thanks be to God
Postlude

Today’s Lectors: Susan K. & Jennifer B.

Birthdays This Week:

September 24—Vaughn Morrison