



GATHERING

ASSEMBLING DIRECTIONS

Ron Zelle

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C And also with you.

P God stretches the spangled heavens and cultivates our earth.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P God lifts the mountains and fills the seas with life giving water.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P God raises plants from the land and fills the prairies with animals.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P The living breath of God fills us with life.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P Through our laughter and tears, God gives our lives meaning.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P God fills our hearts through the love of family and friends.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, the blossoming plants, the cooling breeze, may all these break into song as we worship.

C Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

P While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm.
- C God, have mercy.**
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

OPENING PRAYER

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**
- P 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.
- C Amen.**

WORD

READING

Jonah 3:10--4:11

L A reading from Jonah, the 3rd chapter:

¹⁰When 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.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then 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.

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

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

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C 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. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When 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.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Mark A. Anderson

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

- P Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Where natural disasters have unfolded bring hope and restoration. Watch over those living in harm's way *especially with Hurricane Sally and the fires in the Western United States*. Strengthen relief efforts and keep safe all public safety officials. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide hope. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Keep safe all schools, colleges, universities and places of learning. Protect teachers, professors, administrators and students *especially St. Paul's Lutheran School, Waverly Shell Rock School District, Wartburg College and the University of Northern Iowa*. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Strengthen those with medical concerns. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need *especially Vern Byl, Alan Hagen, and all suffering with COVID-19*. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C 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.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P May God creator, bless and keep you. May Christ be ever light for your lives.
May the Spirit of love be your guide and your path for all of your days.

C **Amen.**

DEPARTURE DIRECTIONS

Ron Zelle

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Worship Leaders

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Building Closure

At the advice of our doctors, St. Paul's building will remain closed through the month of September. Be safe. Be well everyone.

Health and Healing

For Vern Byl, Alan Hagen, and all suffering with COVID-19.

Altar Flowers are given by Jennifer and Anne Prinz in honor of their twin brothers' 60th birthday on September 24.

Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Dan & Mary Graeser in honor of Hilda Fedeler's 109th birthday which was on September 7. The broadcast is at 9:00 AM Sundays on KWAY 99.3 FM.

St. Paul's Together Online

Here is our lineup for weekly content found on our website at www.stpaulswaverly.org/live.

Tuesday: Music with Nick Klemetson

Wednesday: Catching Up with Pr. Arthur

Thursday: School Worship livestreamed at 8:35 a.m.

Saturday: Home Communion with Pr. Arthur live only at 5:30.

Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship Live Streamed on our website & Broadcasted on KWAY 99.3FM