

# Hollywood Lutheran Church

17th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 20, 2026



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

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.



## Welcome To Worship

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy, and Justice to our homes, congregation, city, and all creation.**

**Welcome**—we're glad you're here. Take a breath, settle in, and participate at your own pace; let the congregation and bulletin guide you. Join us after the service for refreshments—we'd love to meet you. If you're not feeling well, please consider wearing a mask so we can keep one another safe.

**Visitors** are invited to complete the attendance card in the pew and share any prayer requests or concerns. Sing as you're able—just praise, no need to be perfect. Children are a joyful part of worship; their sounds are welcome, and crayons and coloring sheets are available in the narthex. We celebrate Holy Communion today—all are welcome, with wine, grape juice, and gluten-free bread available.

The rainbow candelabra on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the **LGBTQ+** community.

The Paschal candle at the entrance to the sanctuary symbolizes the welcoming light of Jesus Christ and has traditionally been a sign of Christ as the Light of the World.

*Join us after the service for refreshments in Hoick Hall. We look forward to meeting you.*

### In Today's Liturgy

**Minister:** Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

**Assistant Minister:** Ted Goulet

**Lector:** Tom Scott

**Organist:** Michael Anderson

**Cantor:** Phyllis Lundine

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Plants and Flowers are given to the glory of God.

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### PRELUDE

Michael Anderson

*The congregation is invited to stand as they can or feel comfortable.*

**Welcome, This Morning Worship Service Begins With**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 SONG

*Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)*



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

## GREETING

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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)*

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11**

A reading from Jonah.

*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?*

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.

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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 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?"

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Refrain ( R ):* The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. R**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,**

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. R**

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

A reading from Philippians.

*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.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

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 in no way frightened by those opposing you. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Jesus said to the disciples: "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 a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 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 a denarius? 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

### **SERMON**

Rev. Toni Castañeda Carrera

*You are invited to stand, as you are able or as you feel comfortable.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*As Saints of Old (ELW 695)*



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

## 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 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 INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love.

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

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness.

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

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity.

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

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need.

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

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community.

Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents.

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

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled.

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

For what else shall we pray for today?

*We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.*

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

*The usher will now pass the offering plate.*

Special Music by Michael Anderson

## **OFFERING**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

## 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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave  
thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the  
forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are they who are called to His table."

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



*You are invited to stand, as you are able or as you feel comfortable.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)*



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**



**Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:**

**Special Prayer:**

God of peace, we humbly pray for your mercy. Guide the leaders of all nations with wisdom and compassion, that they may choose peace over conflict. Hold close families who are separated, comfort those who are afraid, and protect all who are caught in violence and uncertainty. Provide for their daily needs and keep them safe. Remind us that we are one human family, and fill every heart with hope, courage, and the assurance that no one is alone.

**Healing:**

Tanya, John Curley, Lorene Yaros, Irene Yaros,  
Charlette Johnson, Lee Nelson, Vallery Steward, Bill  
Richards, David Conrad, Scott Aries, Amara Olivera,  
Jeffrey Forbar, Roy Mariano

**Wholeness and well-being:**

Marie Sorensen, Adelina, Deborah An Monahan,  
Thomas Richardson

**Trust in God's mercy:**

Kat Nelson, Tamara Olivera & Alonzo Perez De Arre,  
Zakaria, Karin Garcia, Arvik Rostamians

**Healing & the Strength in the Fight Against Cancer:**

Anna Harris, Ashlyn, Jennifer Yates, Jaha Blackwell,  
Debra Lande

**Hope & strength:**

For all military people who are deployed or serving.

**In Loving Memory, candles are lit in remembrance of:**

Remembering all who have passed this year.

If you would like to add, update, or remove a name, please contact the church office at [hlchurch.office@gmail.com](mailto:hlchurch.office@gmail.com) or (323) 667-1212.

Names are generally kept on the list for one month, unless otherwise requested.



**HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**105<sup>th</sup> Year**

We are a welcoming congregation of the Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, committed to serving our community with faith, compassion, and hospitality.

**Contact Us:** Email: [hlchurch.office@gmail.com](mailto:hlchurch.office@gmail.com)

Phone: (323) 667-1212 Website: [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net)

**HLC Schedule:**

Worship Service — Every Sunday @ 10:00 AM

Food Pantry Delivery — Mondays 8:00 AM

Food Pantry Distribution — Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

# Canticle of the Turning

(elw 723)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.