

Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Notes for Sunday, September 13th, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Steps Since Resuming In–Person Worship Services

We have now had three worship services following the re-opening guidelines issued by Alberta Health Services, including one service with Holy Communion. We are grateful that those who feel it is safe to attend in-person have the opportunity to do so, albeit very differently from our services before the Covid-19 pandemic. We plan to continue with these services, but also want to consider other options for those in the congregation who are not able to attend in person, including the possibility of calling in on your phone to hear the service, or watching a video of the service on your computer. We hope to have more information about this by next week. Other options would be to pick up Worship Notes and announcements each week at the church and drop-off copies for your friends from Hope, or to receive this information by mail. Please think about what will work for you through the fall and into the winter. Council will be in touch before finalizing our plans. If you have comments, please contact a member of Council.

Regarding the in-person services themselves, we are going to try returning to Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. For now, please continue to let us know if you'll be attending. For the rest of the church year, the plan is the following:

- September 13th – Holy Communion
- September 20th – Service of the Word
- September 27th – Holy Communion
- October 4th – Service of the Word
- October 11th (Thanksgiving) – Holy Communion
- October 18th – Service of the Word
- October 25th (Reformation Sunday) – Holy Communion
- November 1st (All Saints Day) – Holy Communion
- November 8th – Holy Communion
- November 15th – Service of the Word
- November 22nd (Christ the King) – Holy Communion

Mount Carmel Bible College

Mount Carmel Bible College (just down the street from the church), has students in volunteer placements as part of their program. This year, things look quite different. Still, they are hoping to get students involved with the community in safe ways.

One option they are playing with is to pair students with a local senior (or two) for an hour or two a week. Some ideas of things the students would be able to do are:

- Small household tasks/cleaning
- Yard work
- Small errands/shopping
- Or just conversations/company (with distancing of course)

If you would be interested in being paired with any students for something like this, or know someone who would, please let me know by calling the church, or emailing me at pastor-hopelutheran@telus.net. I'm sure the school would also receive contact directly by emailing Katie Greenway-Short at kgreenway@mountcarmel.net or by calling (780) 465-3015 ext. 1002

Proper 19 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost – Series A

ELW Service of the Word

Created by Pastor Erik Osness

780-466-8502 – pastor-hopelutheran@telus.net – Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri, 9:30 am-1:00 pm

PRE-SERVICE INTRODUCTION

God is able to turn evil into good. A perfect example of this is that he redeems our life from the pits of sin and death. The evil we did to his Son, he used for the good of us all. Does this mean we ought to do evil so that good will result? As the King James Version exclaims in response to a similar question, “God forbid” (Rom 6:2). We will all have to give an account for the lives we have lived, “whether good or evil” (2 Cor 5:10). Therefore, we ought to do the good thing when someone wrongs us; we ought to forgive them—each and every time.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ABSOLUTION

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

GATHERING SONG - ELW #834 – *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Steadfast God, your mercy is everlasting and your forgiveness boundless. As we gather together and receive your word of forgiveness in the gospel proclaimed and the meal shared, renew us in the gift of baptism that we may be signs of reconciliation for the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

⁸**Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the Beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

. . .

This week’s Gospel reading comes immediately following last week’s reading. After hearing from Jesus how to approach someone who has sinned against you, with keeping the relationship and the good of the community in view, our wonderful old friend Peter has a question.

. . .

Peter asks Jesus, “if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” (Matthew 18:21).

Peter’s question here isn’t a bad one, and he goes to the right person for it—“the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Before we think lowly of the number he offers, remember our text from last week.

Forgiving *seven* times, in truth, isn’t a small number. Certainly not for fallen, not-always-easy-to-deal-with people like us. Forgiveness isn’t just something you say.

It's something you *do*. Forgiveness is something you do to make the best of the wrong done to you. Forgiveness is repaying evil with good. Forgiveness means welcoming the other as if they have always been your dearest friend. Forgiveness doesn't let the other loose, but continues to support them and call them back. Forgiveness is a very humbling act.

So, forgiveness isn't easy to do *once*, let alone *seven* times.

Seven itself, in full view of the humility and challenge to really, truly forgive, *should* seem daunting to us. It means seven times to be wronged and turn the other cheek. It means seven times where you're forced to have tough conversations you'd rather avoid. Seven times to patiently hope that the same thing won't happen once more. And it's quite likely that it means seven times to be let down and hurt again anyway.

That's probably why Peter offers the number seven.

The teaching we looked at last week, about going to the person directly, "If someone has sinned against you..." was a hard one. Peter here is just inquiring, wisely, as to what happens when that person keeps doing what they did; keeps doing the same wrong against you after you forgive them. Peter wants to know what to do when that person keeps sinning and won't quit. He wants to know how many times you need to keep going through same process? The same, often painful process.

Peter knows it will require, in many circumstances, more than one time. Probably more than two. Three times is likely. At the time, many rabbis suggested you only need to forgive three times and no more. Peter knows Christ forgives more freely than that. Peter knows his love is of a more radical sort. But Peter thinks it couldn't possibly go on forever. He thinks, eventually, you'll get to a point where you no longer need to keep on forgiving.

So, Peter settles on the number seven as his own suggestion.

I imagine Peter also knows himself well enough by this point too. Maybe Peter understands himself not to be all that reliable, and, because of that, assumes that his own forgiveness would eventually be exhausted. Peter might imagine, one day, meeting an end to *his own* forgiveness. He might think Jesus himself won't keep forgiving him forever. So, why not ask about the next step in the teaching.

If Peter is anything like me, and I imagine anything like many of you as well, he isn't just asking, "How many times do I need to forgive *that* person?" He's asking,

“How many times will *I* be forgiven? When will I finally hear, ‘enough is enough’? When will my opportunity to find forgiveness end?”

Well, Jesus has good news for us all.

. . .

The answer: not *seven* times, but *seventy-seven times*.

In other words, don’t even begin to count. Forgive infinity times infinity times. True forgiveness knows no number and no end.

This endless forgiveness applies to forgiving others and to what we receive from God ourselves as the repentant. We don’t need to torment ourselves with how long Christ will keep forgiving us. His endless grace for us is always offered, never-ending, and is given to set us free from such bondage of calculating and wondering.

Counting, which for us in day to day life today is often less about the number of times we’re wronged and more about the severity of hurt inflicted, only weighs us down. Retribution doesn’t help anyone. Calculating tears us apart. We get all wrapped up in ourselves instead of relationships, community, service, and the common good.

Also, as we continue to calculate, still focused on past sins, worthiness, and stuff like that, the truth is we have yet to forgive *even once*, and we ourselves suffer for it.

We need to let go. Our own rights and privileges have already been taken care of by God. We can freely forgive with no end.

Christ’s call to forgiveness is something better than telling someone to *be* whatever they want to be, or *do* whatever they want to do. In the end, that kind of language might sound nice, but it’s really passive words of misunderstanding, disconnectedness, and potentially even damnation. Christ, instead, calls us out of sin with his communal, *active* call for forgiveness.

This active call for forgiveness is a call to get to know your neighbour on a deeper, more personal level.

It’s a call to seek what’s best for your another, even if that doesn’t always please them.

It's a call for us to lay down our lives together to become one in Christ, and one in God's mission to let all know of His love, as Christ breaks down the walls of hostility among us.

Forgiveness brings us towards true peace and rest.

. . .

Sometimes, we struggle to turn from being forgiven to forgiving others ourselves, like we see in the parable Jesus offers. We come up with so many excuses to convince ourselves we don't need to forgive as we've been forgiven.

Usually, this happens because we haven't truly experienced the forgiveness of God. We haven't come to terms our own sinfulness, and with just how gracious a gift we're given. How we'd be lost without it.

But we're only capable of true forgiveness if we recognize God's incredible mercy for us. When we, in true repentance, have experienced God sending another to grant us Christ's forgiveness when we didn't deserve it. Those of us who wouldn't easily accept forgiveness, thinking we ourselves would never be worthy enough to receive such a gift. Those of us who've avoided others, believing ourselves to be unlovable. When we've experienced anything like that, and then come to know God's almighty love and compassion for us, when the Holy Spirit has intervened, through the Scriptures, in worship, or through another person, and made us aware that the debt is paid, and the fact that we are beloved by God is true. When Christ has pierced the darkness and unveiled the light breaking through, *then*, we stop calculating the sins of another. Then, we readily and joyfully forgive, even those that wrong us continually. Then, we're motivated to share this forgiveness of Christ with everyone we know, recognizing that he is the way, the truth, and the life. His yolk is easy and his burden is light. Christ brings rest to the weary and heavy laden. He restores our souls.

So, when we see or experience ourselves someone who doesn't forgive as they've been forgiven, try not to be too quick to judge or reject them. Instead, walk alongside them. Teach them of the great love and forgiveness of God. Model forgiveness for them. Help them to truly know the great gift of forgiveness offered for them. They need our love. They need our forgiveness. They need our love and forgiveness to fill them with the love and forgiveness of God poured out for them in Jesus Christ.

. . .

Others will repeatedly wrong us. But Christ paves the way for us to be free to forgive.

We don't need to be indignant when we're wronged. We have no need to continually judge those that wrong us. We need only to freely forgive as we've been forgiven. Forgive without end, without qualification.

By this, we create peace.

By this, we create belonging.

By this, this wonderful gift of Christ working in, with, and through us, we're like sacraments ourselves. We bring the love and healing of our Lord as the Kingdom of God breaks through the darkness of this world. As the veil between Heaven and earth is torn. The light starts to shine brighter. Communities are transformed. Reconciliation happens.

True forgiveness creates a welcoming environment to learn and to grow as the Body of Christ.

May it be so among us. May we know of God's forgiveness, experience it in our lives, and freely share it with others. And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #359 – *Where Charity and Love Prevail*



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.

We are your debtors in so many ways, heavenly Father! We sometimes forget how even our trifling sins can, if unrepented and unforgiven, run up a soul-crushing "tab." Thank you for being so willing to cancel our debt. Keep us ever mindful of the costly generosity of your beloved Son. Give us his grace and strength, to willingly forgive the debts of those who have wronged us.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Teach your Church how to be a school for forgiveness and an outpost of your "Mercy Hospital." Give it leaders who explain and practice forgiving. Make its worship an encounter with your forgiveness. Equip its members to pray for and share the forgiveness you give through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

How difficult it must be for your people to forgive when they are being tortured simply for believing in Jesus, who prayed for his enemies even from the Cross! Give them a double portion of his Spirit, so that they may bless and not curse; forgive and not revile. Let persecutors repent from their evil and ask forgiveness from those they have wronged.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Make the people of this congregation rich in mercy, abounding in kindness, tireless in good works, and joyful in praising you, the source of all mercy.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Bless our schools, colleges, seminaries, and home schools as they embark on a strange and difficult journey this fall. We don't know how COVID-19 will affect students, teachers, and families. We do know that children need education, but we want them to be safe. Guide and protect us all, and help us to make prudent decisions, even though sometimes we will make mistakes.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who are crushed beneath a load of debt. They can do foolish or dangerous things to seek relief. Help them to ask for help, forgiveness, and a wise solution. Help those to whom they are indebted to move beyond anger and self-interest, into the uncharted yet blessed waters of mercy. Remind them how indebted they are to you, for you forgive their debts of sin.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Be merciful to this poor broken world. Help our leaders to rule with justice tempered with mercy and compassion. Bestow on all of us a spirit of patience, forbearance, humility, and kindness. Teach us to outdo one another in showing mercy and righteousness.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for everyone seeking to be Jesus' disciples, especially as he teaches them the hard path of forgiveness and self-sacrifice. Fill them with your Spirit. Help them to rightly and wisely share your Son's costly grace, even with people who are obnoxious, obstinate, or oblivious.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Renew the life and health of all who are afflicted in any way by the powers of sin, evil, sickness, or death. Especially we plead on behalf of: Adeline; Karen; Chris; Clarence; Irma; Bob; Gordon; David; Art; Paul; Otto; Betty Jo; Ewald; Joseph; Louise; Mona; Pastor Richard; Tim; Debbie; Roland; Jim; and all those we now name in our hearts. . . . Heal all their infirmities, dear Lord; and crown them with your mercy and loving-kindness.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Most holy Father, you show goodness and mercy toward those who die trusting in you, including Ed Bartel, Gordon Hughes, Alan Delorme. Thank you for redeeming their lives from the grave. Make your ways known also to us; renew our strength; and take away our sin. Lead us in the pathways of your loving-kindness, and teach us to forgive rather than to pass judgment upon one another. Grant that whether we live or die, we know that we are yours. Raise us to that perfect and

glorious life which you bestow upon all whom you have redeemed.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Conform our prayers to the heart of Jesus, hear them through the interceding of your Holy Spirit, and grant them in accordance with your gracious will. Amen.

PEACE

(If you are with someone and are able, please share the Peace of Christ with them in an appropriate manner)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray:

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us

The LORD lift up his countenance upon us, and **✝ give us peace.**

Amen.

SENDING SONG - ELW #819 – Come, All You People



U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.
 Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8;
 Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.**
