



Service of Worship for the Lord's Day
September 27, 2026
Proper 21

Prayers written by Don Quinley.

PRELUDE "Holy Manna" Mary Lynn Thompson *Joyful Sounds Handbell Ensemble*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord God calls to us to proclaim his name to the nations, to worship him alone and to repent of our evil ways.

People: Lord God, we humble ourselves and offer our worship to you. You have fashioned us out of dust and yet you send your Spirit to live in us. Your mercy is abundantly spread over all the earth and your providence blesses all of your creation.

Pastor: Come before the Lord God Almighty and sing his praises. Make a joyful noise to God who is just and merciful.

HYMN #435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Guide: God of mercy and of compassion, we worship you as the only righteous one in the midst of your creation. Your power and zeal for righteousness consumes all evil, yet you have provided a way for us, the unrighteous, to approach your throne.

People: Lord God, who are we, that we can stand before you, apart from the cloak of righteousness provided by our King Jesus? We have no standing on our own.

Guide: Your mercy provides a shade from your consuming zeal and yet the corruption of the created order gnaws to expose our every denial of your power and sovereignty.

People: Your mercy abundantly provides for our needs, and yet we are stubborn, self-serving, and often unthankful for the blessings you shower upon us. You know us, and therefore you call us to confess our sins to You and pray for Your forgiveness.

- Silent Confessions -

Guide: Lead us now pray the prayer You taught Your disciples, saying, ***“Our Father...” The Lord’s Prayer” (debts/debtors)*** p. 35 in hymnal

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Guide: The Gospel of Jesus Christ states the saving truth: those who believe in Jesus Christ are sons and heirs to His kingdom.

CHORAL RESPONSE *(in unison)*

#582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

ANTHEM "Adoration" by Florence B. Price, arr. Elaine Fine
Lisa Muci, violin & Janice James, piano

FAMILY SERMON Joy Bornhoeft

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: Holy Spirit, fill us with knowledge and grace to spread God’s love to all who will receive it.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:10-4:11

3:10-4:1 God saw what they were doing - that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn’t do it. But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry.

2-3 He prayed to the Lord, “Come on, Lord! Wasn’t this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. At this point, Lord, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live.”

4-6 The Lord responded, “Is your anger a good thing?” But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided

a shrub, and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub.

7-8 But God provided a worm the next day at dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, "It's better for me to die than to live."

9 God said to Jonah, "Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?" Jonah said, "Yes, my anger is good - even to the point of death!"

10-11 But the Lord said, "You 'pitied' the shrub, for which you didn't work and which you didn't raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night. Yet for my part, can't I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can't tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

All: This is the Word of the Lord. Amen.

Philippians 1:21-30

21-23 Because for me, living serves Christ and dying is even better. If I continue to live in this world, I get results from my work. But I don't know what I prefer. I'm torn between the two because I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is far better.

24-26 However, it's more important for me to stay in this world for your sake. I'm sure of this: I will stay alive and remain with all of you to help your progress and the joy of your faith, and to increase your pride in Christ Jesus through my presence when I visit you again.

27 Most important, live together in a manner worthy of Christ's gospel. Do this, whether I come and see you or I'm absent and hear about you. Do this so that you stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel.

28-29 That way, you won't be afraid of anything your enemies do. Your faithfulness and courage are a sign of their coming destruction and your salvation, which is from God. God has generously granted you the privilege, not only of believing in Christ but also of suffering for Christ's sake.

30 You are having the same struggle that you saw me face and now hear that I'm still facing.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERMON "Worthy of the Gospel" Pastor Joseph

HYMN #543 God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Father, as we sit still before you, fill our minds and hearts with the reality that you have the storehouse of blessings and peace ready for us to distribute in your name. Give us the resolve to act boldly in your name to bring your peace to a suffering world, starting here and sharing with all.

People: We are your people, Lord. Just as those in Nineveh, tune our attention to your call. Work in our lives, so that we will be your instruments to bring the Gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering in body, mind and soul. Teach us to share your providential blessing with those who are in need. Fill our spirit with words that will comfort those who don't know of your peace. We pray for those now.

- *Silent prayers for others and ourselves. A candle is lit.* -

Pastor: God, thank you for using us to fulfill your work and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is in his name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Speak, O Lord" Keith Getty, Stuart Townend arr. Lloyd Larson
Lisa Muci, violin Janice James, piano

***OFFERING** (in unison) "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
***God, Whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.***

DEDICATION (unison)

We dedicate ourselves, our time, and our resources to you. Please bless this token of that dedication so that we will accomplish the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, for it is in His name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #702 Christ Be Beside Me

BENEDICTION Pastor Joseph

DOXOLOGY (in unison) #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

POSTLUDE Allegro from "Autumn" (The Four Seasons) Vivaldi

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

The first Sunday of October is "World Communion Sunday." Believers from all across creation are preparing to encounter God in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup this week. Yet all of us sometimes fall short of the grace we have been given. What happens when people bear fruit that is *not good*? How can we extend grace to others? How do we receive grace *when we fall short*?

MONDAY Exodus 18:1-12

TUESDAY Philippians 1:3-14

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 5:1-14

THURSDAY Psalm 19

FRIDAY John 7:40-52

SATURDAY Isaiah 5:1-7

SUNDAY Matthew 21:33-46