

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Christian Supplement Worship - Series B

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-10

¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city — a visit required three days. ⁴ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints — ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

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Welcome
to
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ's Love,
Our Calling.

To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with the risen living Redeemer, membership in His Church, and citizenship in His eternal kingdom. Our message is as old as the Word of God to man and as new as the new life it brings: *Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to give eternal life to people everywhere.*

Dear Visitors:

- **The bookmark** in this service folder will guide you through our service.
- If you **need assistance** in worship, ask an usher. We offer worship partners.
- Before you leave today, **please sign our guest book**. It is located in the Narthex.

Personal sound enhancement receivers are available to help the hearing impaired. An usher will be happy to assist you.

Today's Service is being broadcast at www.peacewithgod.com. Click on the blue box labeled "Live Online Services." It can be viewed **LIVE** or any time from the collection of archived services.

✘ ✘ ✘ **Before participating in Communion** ✘ ✘ ✘



We welcome all people to our services, those who are fully united with us in Christ's teachings as well as those who do not yet share our confession of the Faith. However, it is a sad consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend a general invitation to all Christians to receive Communion with us. Our Lord teaches (1 Cor. 10:17 and elsewhere) that Communion is an action of the celebrating community that declares their oneness in the Faith, life, and worship. Communing with Christians not in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod [WELS] or our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS], would imply a oneness that does not truly exist, but for which we pray. Our pastor will gladly talk with you about establishing communion fellowship here at Peace.

Suggestions for Pre-service meditation

Meditate on the readings (on the back of the bulletin cover) keeping in mind *Today's Theme* and the comments on the lessons written below. Then do the same with the words of the *Psalm of the Day* and the words of the *hymns*. Both are listed on the worship *bookmark*.

The Theme of Today's Service

God's kingdom, ways, people, and message are hidden to this world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord speaks to us in his word:

The First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-10

The impact and power of the word of the LORD is amazing. It worked the fear of the LORD in the Ninevites in a matter of days. This great city was saved from self-willed lives of sin by the power of God's Word.

The Psalm: Psalm 92

Unbelief is foolish for it does not see things the way they really are. This wisdom is a gift through the LORD.

The Second Lesson: Colossians 1:3-8

The word was out. All over the pagan Roman world Christ's simple gospel was working its wonders. Eyes were opened to God's grace in all its truth and empty futile lives gave way to lives of true hope.

The Verse of the Day: Psalm 132:9

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus teaches us about God's kingdom in parables. His parables require faith's new eyes to understand them. These parables teach believers that God's kingdom grows by his amazing work behind the scenes.

The Sermon: Mark 4:26-34

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Adapted from a sermon by Rev. Charles Henrickson