

September 20, 2020
Pentecost

9:15 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after

ABOUT 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.*

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *This is the Feast of Victory*

-Richard Hillert, arr. Sherri Hansen

All who are able are invited to stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN: *Golden Breaks the Dawn p. 12*

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

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.

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
All may be seated*

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

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?

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?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8 (read responsively – congregation reads bold)

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²**Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

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.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of

suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. *The word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

All who are able are invited to stand

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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:] 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.” *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you, O Christ.

All may be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

All who are able are invited to stand

HYMN: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* p. 13

APOSTLES' CREED

In the words of the Apostles' Creed, let us confess our faith:

**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

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

A brief silence.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. Through his body and blood may we remember the promise of Jesus' love and forgiveness. As we come to your table this morning, may we rejoice in this gift given especially this day for Alyssa, Jordan, Conner, Braden and Gavin. May they continue to grow in faith and know your endless love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need *especially George, Doug, Jennifer, Lillian, Arlene, Linda, Mike, Dorothy, Paul, Jim, Rich, Michael, Shirley.* Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *especially Cassidy, Diane, Evan, Franklin, Jane, Radelle, Patricia, Elizabeth, Kristie, Matthew, Cassandra.* Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever *especially Janet & Robert, Kimberly & Paul, Andrew & Stacy, Daniel & Stephany, Chris & Julie, Cedella & Paul, Judy & Keith, Sharon & Roland, Brian & Ranae, Carolyn & Dale.* Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, as our shepherd, guide the ministries of all our siblings in Christ in congregations who continue to do your work. Through your Holy Spirit provide courage, perseverance and resources to those who speak your word of truth and love. We give thanks this day for our sisters and brothers united through you. We pray especially for the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, Whitehall, and for their pastor, James Schlegel. May we be filled with your Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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.

Come all who hunger and be fed with the bread of life.

COMMUNION HYMN: *O Living Bread from Heaven* p. 14 (during distribution)

BLESSING

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *How Small Our Span of Life* p. 15

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

-William M. Runyan, arr. Marianne Kim

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- Golden Breaks the Dawn (*Le p'ing*) ELW 852
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- Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (*The Servant Song*) ELW 659
(Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (*The Servant Song*). Text: Richard Gillard. Music: Richard Gillard, arr. Betty Pulkingham. Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, admin. Integrity Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701079)
- O Living Bread From Heaven (*Aurelia*) ELW 542
(Public Domain)
- How Small Our Span of Life (*Kingsfold*) ELW 636
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These children have completed the required instruction and will receive First Communion on Sunday, September 20th at the 9:15 worship service:
**Alyssa Heller, Jordan Kerchner, Conner Weidman,
Gavin Schuler, Braden Grim**

Jesus shows his great love for you by giving his body and blood which you receive today. Praying these sacred gifts will sustain you today as you grow in faith. God bless you on this special day!

Altar Flowers are given in memory of Diane Stettler by Bruce and Louise Stettler. (T)

Lector: Shirley Schleicher
Cantor: Dave Mancke

Our Staff

The Rev. Dody S. Siegfried, Pastor
The Rev. Jerel Gade, Visitation Pastor
Jamie Edelman, Director of Education & Youth
Monica Unangst, Church Administrator
Susan Hartney, Organist/Choir Director
& Director of Bell Choirs
Jan Kistler, Asst. Organist
& Canon Choir Director
Marlene Peters, Cherub Choir Director
Barbara Carinci, Income-Expense Coordinator
Ann Kline, Sexton

Say a Prayer & Send a Card & Pay a Visit

Please keep these people in your prayers:

George, Doug, Jennifer, Lillian, Arlene, Linda, Mike, Dorothy, Paula, Jim, Rich, Michael, Shirley

Birthdays this week: Cassidy, Diane, Evan, Franklin, Jane, Radelle, Patricia, Elizabeth, Kristie, Matthew, Cassandra

Anniversaries this week: Janet & Robert, Kimberly & Paul, Andrew & Stacy, Daniel & Stephany, Chris & Julie, Cedella & Paul, Judy & Keith, Sharon & Roland, Brian & Renae, Carolyn & Dale

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Please pick up one of the blue papers on the table where you entered to see a list of ways you can still be involved in this annual event during the pandemic. We can always do God's work, no matter the situation!! You should also have received this sheet by email, or you can request one from the office.

2020 SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: October 18, 25; Nov. 1; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

To sponsor the bulletin or EPP ad, please contact Donna for available dates

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). **Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the 9:15 service or want them taken to shut-ins.** If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Altar flowers are \$40. Bulletins are \$20. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

ATTENDANCE – 9/23/20 58-Live 26-Streaming

**Treasurer's Report
for August 2020**

	Month	YTD	Budget Amounts	
			Month	YTD
Income:				
Operating Income	\$ 22,204.00	\$ 195,113.00	\$ 28,950.00	\$ 231,600.00
Benevolence	\$ 683.00	\$ 9,554.00	\$ 1,667.00	\$ 13,336.00
Property	\$ 1,884.00	\$ 18,140.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 20,000.00
Deficit Reduction	\$ 498.00	\$ 7,370.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 25,269.00	\$ 230,177.00	\$ 33,117.00	\$ 264,936.00
Expenses:				
Administration	\$ 1,064.00	\$ 10,101.00	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 15,880.00
Ministries	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 5,182.00	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 11,496.00
Payroll	\$ 21,227.00	\$ 170,972.00	\$ 22,049.00	\$ 176,392.00
Property-Utilities, grounds, etc	\$ 4,404.00	\$ 57,673.00	\$ 7,942.00	\$ 63,536.00
Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 12,417.00	\$ 1,917.00	\$ 15,336.00
Total Expenses	\$ 27,866.00	\$ 256,345.00	\$ 35,330.00	\$ 282,640.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,597.00)	\$ (26,168.00)	\$ (2,213.00)	\$ (17,704.00)

We are now seeing updates on the Truist website for the next phase of the PPP SBA process where we apply for the loan forgiveness, but we are in a holding pattern as Truist is finishing their online application process. So, we are still tracking our employee payroll expenses and utilities (electric & oil), which are being paid for through PPP SBA loan funds. We are required to track all these expenses separately for the necessary documentation in our forgiveness application with Truist Bank to show that we have met qualifications for possible forgiveness and a conversion to a grant.

In this month's Treasurer's Report, the dollar amounts show the full expenses associated with Payroll and the Property-Utilities, grounds, etc. in the expenses section of the report. These expenses are still being tracked separately from our normal income and expense records using features of our PowerChurch software. This month's Treasurer's Report shows a deficit for the YTD (year to date) a little over (\$26,000.). Treasurer's Reports will NOT be reporting any surplus amounts due to the \$ 47,400. SBA Loan, since this amount was deposited into our Operating Income as a balance adjustment until we are potentially granted forgiveness.

In this time of limited access to the Sacraments due to COVID 19, many of us have gone without reception of Holy Communion for several months. We are now celebrating communion at our in-person worship services on the first and third Sundays of each month. For those watching the live stream at home, you may receive communion by coming to the Family Center parking lot after the service. Outdoor stations will be set up and members of the Re-Launch Team and SAT members will be there to greet you as you remain safely in your car and drive thru the stations in order to receive Holy Communion in a safe, non-touch manner. Pastor and the team members will be there until around 11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: The office is still open! Normal hours (these days!) are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to take your phone calls, drop off your offering envelopes, etc. Every effort will be made to do so contact-free.

Assistance for Members: We have a team of volunteers standing by who are willing to run errands, pick up groceries or prescriptions, etc. for those who may be unable or just should not go out. Please call the church office and we will get you in touch with someone who can help.

Food Pantry: We are still in need of food donations. Drop off during office hours. Monetary donations are welcome, also, and will purchase 3 to 4 times as much food for the money!

Worship Services: in the Family Center at 9:15 a.m. Holy communion will be offered both in person and drive through on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. For those who feel more comfortable remaining at home, worship services will be live streamed on both our website and Facebook page

6th Street Shelter donations needed: You may drop off your items (multi-surface and floor cleaners, non-bleach disinfectant sprays and wipes, mops & buckets, 13 gal. trash can liners, liquid dish detergent and shower curtains, liners & rings) this Sunday during the service or drive through communion. A collection box will be located outside the Family Center. Donations may also be dropped off during normal office hours at the office door. Thank you in advance for your generous donations! And don't forget the youth clothing drive that runs thru October 11th!

So...How are we doing? With the Relaunch of Jordan Lutheran Church, many new elements have evolved to ensure our members may gather in a safe, spirit-fueled environment. And for those who wish to remain at home, we will continue to provide a virtual connection for you. The Relaunch Task Force welcomes your comments as to how we may improve upon this new service format. Please contact Karen Boardman (kjb59@ptd.net) or Glenn Wagner (glenn.wagner03@gmail.com) with your feedback. Thank you!

We send our gratitude to those who continue to faithfully make their offerings so that we may be ready, unafraid and able to return to regular ministry when life gets back to normal!
Jordan is pleased to offer electronic giving options to our members. Members can make a one-time donation, or establish a recurring giving profile through the convenience of their computer or mobile phone. We highly recommend that at this time you prayerfully consider using online giving. Here is how you sign up:
WEBSITE – go to www.jordanlutheran.org click on the **SUPPORT** tab, then **Electronic Giving** and you will be offered two options to set up your electronic giving
GIVE+ PLUS (a free, secure phone app) download this free app to your mobile phone, search by zip code 18069 and when you see Jordan, follow the instructions to make your donation.

Card Showers for Members - Let's all send our "get well wishes" to these members who are dealing with health problems:

Rich Boyer
523 Racite Rd.
Alburtis PA 18211

Jim Miller
7100 Pioneer Dr.
Macungie PA 18062

Golden Breaks the Dawn

Qing zao qilai kan



Qing zao qi - lai kan, hong ri chu tong - fang,
1 Gold - en breaks the dawn, comes the east - ern sun;
2 Ho - ly, liv - ing God, keep me safe to - day;
3 Give me dai - ly bread, while I do my part;



xiong - zhuang xiang yong - shi, mei - hao xiang xin - lang;
like a rid - er strong, set the course to run.
though I wea - ry plod, make me kind, I pray.
bright skies o - ver - head, glad - ness in my heart.



tian gao fei - niao guo, di kuo ye - hua xiang,
Birds a - bove me fly, flow - ers bloom be - low;
Let me guide our youth, hon - or weak and old;
Sim - ple wants pro - vide, e - vil let me shun;



zhao wo qin gong - zuo, Tian - fu you en - guang.
through the earth and sky God's great mer - cies flow.
let me serve with truth, and God's love un - fold.
Je - sus at my side, till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974

Music: LE P'ING, Te-ngai Hu

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Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
 Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928
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 c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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O Living Bread from Heaven

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

How Small Our Span of Life



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch - ing of a breath,
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty,
to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
il - lu - min - ing our pil - grim - age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with - in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
You filled your cross - closed years with love; you loved us to the end
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass - ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional

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