

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

E-News for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2026



What is Fair?

Jesus' parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard challenges our understanding of fairness, grace, and the generosity of God. A landowner goes out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard, agreeing to pay them the usual daily wage. But throughout the day—at nine, noon, three, and even at five o'clock—he continues to hire more workers. When evening comes, something surprising happens: everyone receives the same wage, whether they worked the entire day or only the final hour.

Jesus has a way of turning things upside down. The kingdom of heaven does not operate according to our calculations of who has worked hardest, who deserves the most, or who arrived first. It operates according to the generosity of God.

From a Lutheran perspective, this parable offers a wonderful picture of grace. God's love is not a paycheck we earn by accumulating enough hours of faithful service. It is a gift. Perhaps the uncomfortable question Jesus leaves us with is not simply, "Is God fair?" but rather, "Can we rejoice when God is more generous to someone else than we think they deserve?"



Our Sympathy & Comfort to:

To Judy Smith, family & friends on the loss of Judy's dear husband Bob.
Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 19th at 10am in Sanctuary.



**Our 40th Anniversary \$40,000 Mission Challenge Appeal to support Crossroads Lutheran Church in San Tan Valley and First Evangelical Lutheran in Mesa stands at \$29,850. Can we reach our goal by the end year?
Thank you for considering a gift to support mission partners.**



**Interested in Joining Love of Christ?
Our next New Member Orientation will be:**

**Sunday, September 27 from 11:45AM-2:00PM
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Contact: Dianne Oien (dianneoien@loclc.org)
for more information.**

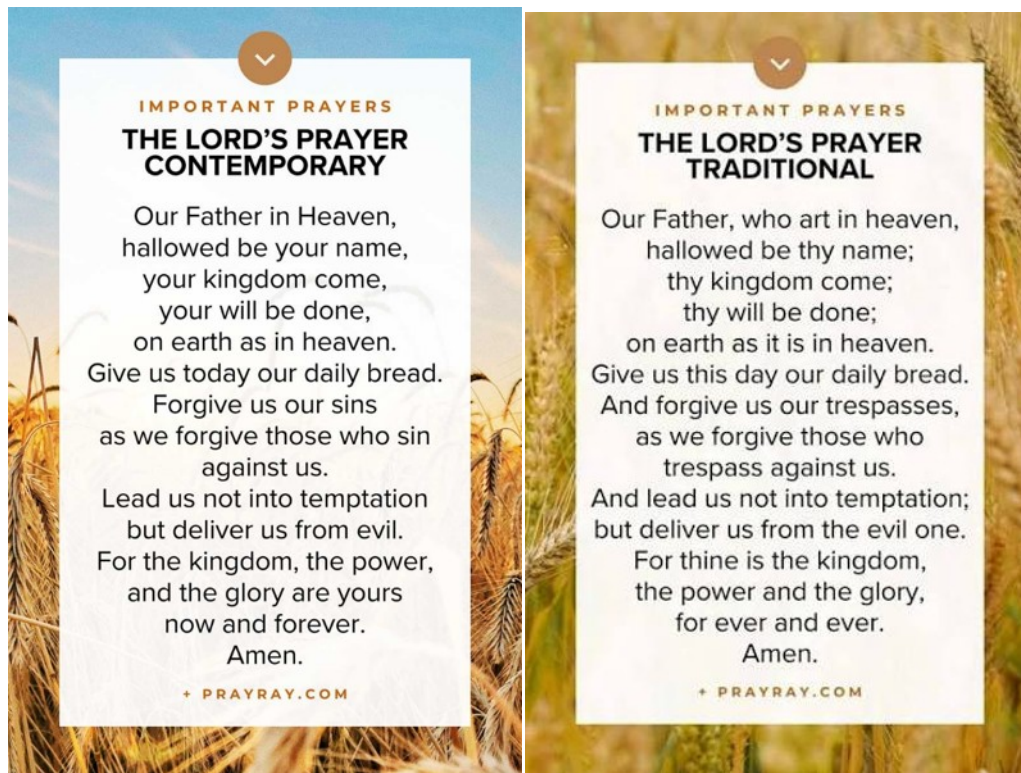


This fall, the Let ABC15 Know team will celebrate 10 years of bringing free consumer help to the community through its annual "On the Road" event at Tempe Marketplace. This runs from 5 to 7 p.m. at the District Stage, located in the middle of the main shopping center next to Dave & Buster's.

**Free CONSUMER HELP EVENT
Tempe Town Lake on Oct. 20th 5PM-7PM**

For more information:

<https://www.abc15.com/news/let-abc15-know/on-the-road-with-let-abc15-know-celebrates-10-years-of-free-consumer-help-at-tempe-marketplace>

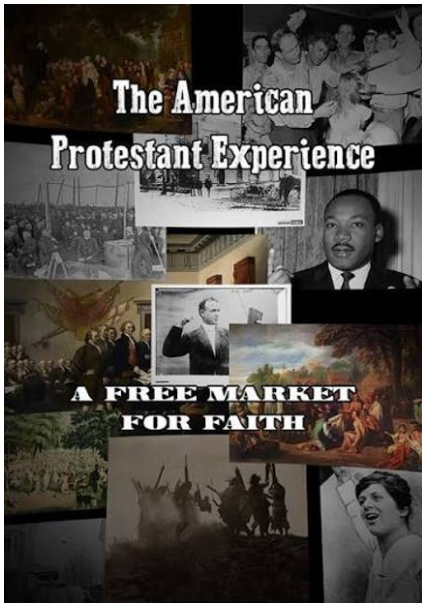


Why Different Versions of the Lord's Prayer?

Lutherans officially incorporated the use of ICET (International Consultation on English Texts) in 1978 with the publication of the milestone Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The introduction of these modern texts played out across the major North American Lutheran bodies with varying degrees of adoption: The Breakthrough (1978): The LBW (affectionately known as the "Green Book") was a joint liturgical project.

It widely introduced the 1975 ICET modern translations—including the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father in heaven... save us from the time of trial")—to the churches that would later form the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** and the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)**. The "Dual Text" Compromise: Much like other denominations during the 1970s, the LBW did not completely abandon historic language. To ease the transition for congregations, the hymnal printed both the Traditional version (debts/trespases) and the Contemporary ICET version side by side.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS): While the LCMS participated in the early development of the LBW, they ultimately withdrew from its publication and chose to retain the traditional English formatting for the Lord's Prayer. In their subsequent hymnals, such as the Lutheran Service Book (2006), the LCMS stuck strictly to the traditional wording. When the ELCA and ELCIC released their current primary hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* in 2006, they updated the contemporary option to the 1988 ELLC text (the direct successor to ICET).



New Adult Study, Wednesday, at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall

It's no accident that America is home to a wide range of religious expressions. Immigrants brought their faith with them from around the globe and established churches and denominations. But the most unique quality of American religious life is the innovation and experimentation that takes place here. This makes this country a free marketplace for faith.

This series documents the eternal argument about the relationship between the church and civil authority. The country's founders, seeing the intolerance of the early immigrants, wisely sought to create a republic where faith could be practiced freely but where a theocracy would be avoided.



Church Potluck—sponsored by Hospitality Team

Friday, September 25th

5 pm to 7 pm

Rooms 48 thru 50 in Center of Compassion

The Hospitality Team is bringing back an LOC favorite social event - the church potluck. Please join us in the COC rooms 48-49-50 for fellowship and good food.



Wondering what to bring to share? We are using the traditional “alphabet-what to bring” code—last name beginning with:

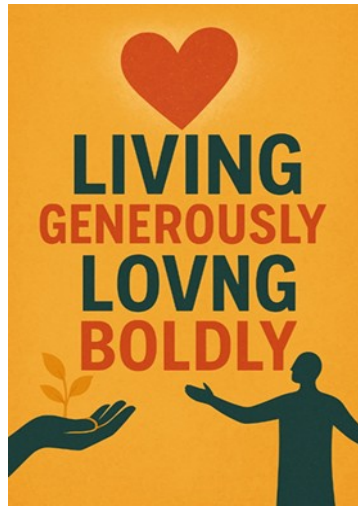
A-H: appetizer

I-P: main dish

Q-Z: dessert

Hospitality will have our coffee bar.

Ask us questions at pattidelaney03@gmail.com, or at Hospitality Hour on Sundays in the Outreach Room. We look forward to sharing time together and hope to see you there!



The Last Seat

The church was preparing for its annual community Thanksgiving dinner. Volunteers had cooked enough food for about 150 people, and everything was carefully planned. Then, twenty minutes before dinner began, a bus pulled up outside. Nearly fifty people stepped off. They were families who had been displaced from their apartments after a fire. They had nowhere else to go that evening.

The volunteers looked at one another. “We don’t have enough,” someone whispered. There was a moment of silence. Then Maria, one of the volunteers, walked into the kitchen. “Let’s put another table in the fellowship hall,” she said. “We already have every chair filled.” “Then we’ll find more chairs.” “But the food—” Maria paused. “We’ll serve what we have. And we’ll trust God with what we don’t.”

The volunteers began rearranging the room. Someone brought folding chairs from the basement. Someone else ran home and returned with two pots of chili. A teenager started cutting the dinner rolls in half. Another volunteer quietly called a nearby restaurant, which donated several trays of food.

People kept coming. And somehow, everyone ate. But something even more important happened that night. A man named David sat at the last table with his young daughter. Before eating, he looked around the crowded room and said, “We lost almost everything in that fire. Tonight, you gave us a place where we didn’t feel like victims. We felt like neighbors.”

Maria looked around the room. There were people eating food they had never expected to share, sitting beside people they had never met, laughing together like old friends. She realized something. The miracle wasn’t that the church had somehow produced enough food. The miracle was that someone had been willing to make room before knowing whether there would be enough.

That night, the congregation learned that generosity is not simply giving from what is left over. Sometimes generosity means pulling up another chair. Sometimes loving boldly means saying, “Come in,” before we know how everything will work out. And sometimes faith means trusting that when we make room for another person, God has a way of making room—and our hearts—larger than we imagined.

Living generously. Loving boldly. Trusting God’s abundance.

The invitation is simple:

Make room. Share what you have. Welcome one more. And trust God to provide the rest.



Continuing the Love of Christ

Endowment News

What Seeds Will We Plant?

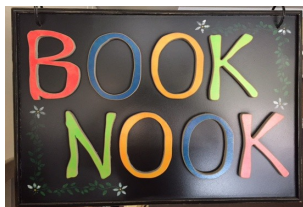
Legacy gifts to the Love of Christ Endowment Fund provide long-term support for Love of Christ Lutheran's mission. They help sustain our worship life, faith formation for all ages, and putting that faith in action through our many ELCA, Grand Canyon Synod and other ministries' partners who help us love our neighbor near and far. A legacy gift helps Love of Christ continue meeting future seekers in their own seasons of longing and change in response to God's amazing grace.

Each of us has received gifts that we can carry forward to others: wisdom offered by teachers, care extended by loved ones, practices preserved across generations, and moments of unexpected grace that changed our lives.

A legacy gift is one way to respond. Wherever you are in the planning process, Love of Christ's Endowment Team and pastors are available to offer information and support. Those who have already included LoC in their plans are invited to let us know so we may honor their generosity and, when desired, recognize them.

We are deeply grateful for every person helping carry the Love of Christ forward. As of July 31, 2026, our LoC Endowment Fund balance is \$145,199.73. To learn more about this Fund go to <https://loveofchristchurch.net/endowment>

Book Nook News



The **Book Nook** is looking for donations of new or used books that you no longer need or want to save. Our book supply has not been replenished for a while, and we are looking for books that would be of interest to people shopping in the Book Nook on Sunday mornings. We are especially looking for novels, nonfiction books, and books of a religious/spiritual nature published within the last 10 years which would be from 2016-2026. If you have any to donate, please drop them off at the Book Nook on Sunday morning or they can be dropped off in the church office during weekdays. Barb and I thank you in advance.

Penny Day

Please join us in upcoming Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed deliveries....

Kids without beds....This is a need in many communities that I was not even aware existed—it is something most of us have not experienced and were not even aware of the need.

But Sleep in Heavenly Peace here in Phoenix has been hard at work to make sure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!” and has delivered over 11,000 beds in the valley in the last 7 years.

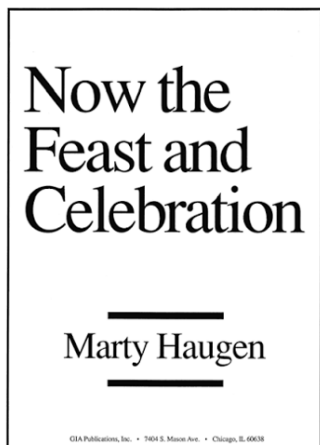
There is nothing quite like seeing the joy of a child who is receiving a bed, complete with mattress, pillow, bedding, stuffed toy and book. Come and experience this for yourself, and help give a child a safe place to sleep and call their own.

We help deliver beds on the 3rd Saturday of the month from the East Valley hub located at St Luke Lutheran Church in Mesa. It's a half day of your time, with a fun group of folks committed to making children in our community a priority. It's easy to bring the beds and assemble them and make them up with handmade quilts, fleece blankets, sheets and stuffies - all tools are provided and there is easy hands-on instruction for beginners. We are also so grateful for the many donors of blankets, sheets, stuffies and books.

If you would like to get involved, text or call JoAnn Grant at 571-334-5028

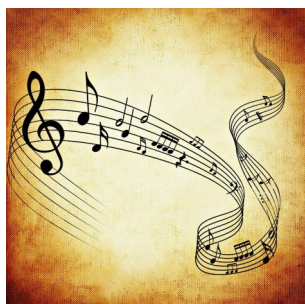
Our next delivery is: **Saturday, September 19th 7:30 –noon.**





Our Traditional 7:50 and 10:30 Liturgy in the Sanctuary moves to Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast and Celebration" for the last half of the Pentecost Season.

Music Notes....



Please contact Jung Lee at: jungmusic@locic.org for how you can be involved with the music program.

Choir practice on Thursdays, 6PM to 8PM in Sanctuary.

With gratitude and excitement,
Jung Lee



Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact: Eunice Ketterling at ketts4az@gmail.com



Community Garden News

Think about trying out a garden in the fall. We are all learning new things and getting to know new people in the fresh air.

Contact Nancy. Dntoll74@gmail.com



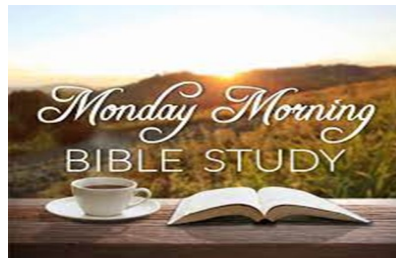
Naomi Circle will meet on: October 12th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!



**Monday Men's Bible Study on 2nd Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.
Men of all ages are welcome to participate.**



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30AM, Bible Study at 11AM**



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care.
This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 PM in the Leadership Room.
Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information:
Margrit: mswiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: ruthleonard@icloud.com



Youth will be meeting on Sundays for Sunday Morning Hangout from 10:00am to 12:00pm
Contact Mason Weatherly at: masonw@locic.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will meet on Wed. September 16th, from 6:00-7:00 pm

Faith Food and Fun



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet on Sunday, September 20, 3:30-5:00 pm. Please contact:
Laura Ontiveros (laurakuegemann@gmail.com) for more information.



Sunday School has begun! Sunday School is offered for ages pre-K-6th grade. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Playroom. Children come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For families that attend 10:30 church, Sunday School is offered at 10:00 -10:25 in the Godly Playroom. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at: nanette@locic.org

Children and Youth Ministry Fall Overview for 2026—Save the Dates!

Children's Musical Rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00 pm-Light dinner at 5:30pm for everyone

Grades 4,5,6 meet Sunday, September 20, 3:30-5:00 pm in the CoC

Sunday School: Every Sunday in Godly Play Room

Youth Sunday Hangout: 10:00 in the Youth Room

Confirmation: Every Wednesday (6:00-7:00)

Service Opportunities—Save the Date!

September: Serving meals at Christ's Church Respite Center on Fridays.

October: Fall Festival October 23, 5:00-7:00 pm

November: Feed My Starving Children: Nov. 5,6, and 7th. Gift cards for food banks to purchase turkeys

December: Gifts for kids, Reverse Advent Boxes, and Family Promise

Ongoing Donations:

September: Donations for sack lunches at Christ's Church

Shelf Stable Food for Victory Food Bank and First Evangelical Food Bank



Water Donations: Last year we donated water to the City of Mesa and to Grace in the City Lutheran Church. This year we will be taking money donations to purchase water, for these two organizations. If you would like to donate water please place money in the offering plate labeled, "Water Donation", or go online and specify water donation, or bring a gift card.

Donation Opportunities:

Donations needed for sack lunches to be given to Christ's Church Respite Center.

Items needed: Tuna or Chicken packs, Vienna Sausage small cans, soft chewy granola bars, boxes of a variety of chips or crackers, boxes of Capri-Sun. These items for sack lunches will be collected through September.

Meals at Christ's Church Respite Center

Love of Christ is partnering with Christ Church Respite Center, 655 E. University Drive, which serves members of the Mesa community who need a safe place of rest and support. We will be helping provide meals on Fridays at the Respite Center. If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact Cindy Wallin (cgeorgen3199@gmail.com) or Melissa Weiss-Riner (melissa@azfls.com) for more information.

As we did last year, we will also be providing sack lunches to Christ's Church Respite Center. If you have any questions about this, please contact Patti Delaney at: pattidelaney03@gmail.com. Items needed for donation are listed above.

These ministries reflect our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Through simple acts of compassion, hospitality, and service, we have the opportunity to care for our neighbors and share the love of Christ in tangible ways.

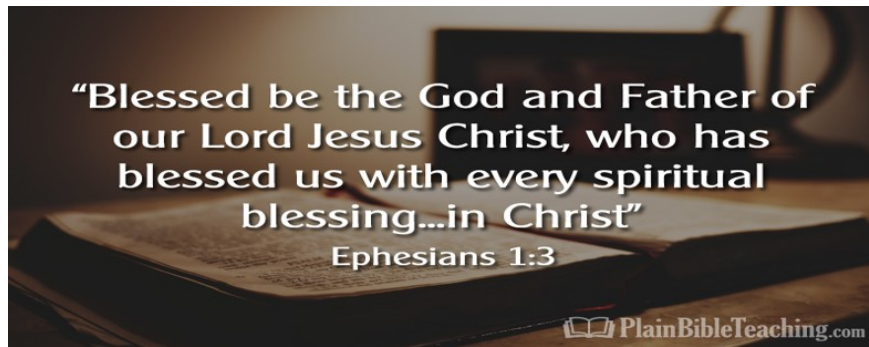
Please continue to keep these ministries, our volunteers, and all who seek refuge from the heat, hunger, or hardship in your prayers. May God use these efforts to provide comfort, safety, and a reminder that every person is valued, welcomed, and loved. *We are Called, Gathered, and Sent to share the Love of Christ.*



The Faith in Action Team would like to welcome Jim Melzer.

He is the new Love Of Christ Lutheran Advocacy Ministry (LAMA) liaison and will soon be sharing with us the group's thoughts on the 2026 Arizona Ballot Propositions.

You can reach Jim at: jmelzer@comcast.net



Women's Monthly Bible Study will meet again on Wednesday, October 14th from 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship hall. The study will be on Ephesians.

No homework. One hour. Enjoy great discussions. All are welcome.

Barb Talmage and Pastor Nanette

Next Dates: Nov 4, Dec 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, No March (lent) and April 7th.



Young Adults will meet again on September 20th at 12:00 in the CoC.
Come ready to share ideas!

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at: nanette@loclc.org .

BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: barnett105@gmail.com

- 2 Methods of finishing the edges of the blankets
- Sewing around the edges
- Crocheting around the edges
- Both methods start the same

Lay Fabric on a table, trim off the Salvage edges of the fleece;
Sewing around the edges

Fold $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch around the edge;

Pin the folded edges all around the edge;

Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing

If your machine only does Zig Zag, that is great also.

- Optional--Baste $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of fold around the edge of the fleece with a needle and thread (Optional)

OR

- Just fold the fabric over about $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch and cut very small slits in the fold;
- Slits should be no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in length and around $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch from the each other
- If you basted around the edge
- Remove the basting from the fleece
- If you have a rotary cutter, you can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)

1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push the crochet hook through the slit next to the one just used (back to front) and pull a loop back through the slit. (You will have 2 loops on the crochet hook.)
5. With the 2 loops still on the hook, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops. Now chain 2 more times.
6. Proceed around the fleece using steps 4 and 5.
7. To turn a corner, follow steps 4 and 5, but insert the hook again in the same slit and do 1 chain and then insert the hook again and perform steps 4 and 5, Then you should be on a new side of the blanket and proceed following steps 4 and 5

There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Jonah 3:10-4:11
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(13 min)



Jonah 3.10-
4.11

Pastor Nanette Christofferson
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Pentecost



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/UCsT6P8J4oQ>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/2430097237811531/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Matthew 20:1-16
with Pastor Nanette Christofferson
(14 min)



MATTHEW
20.1-16

Pastor Nanette Christofferson
Love of Christ Lutheran Church
Pentecost



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/mJGLZ30YIos>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1994412811246284/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, September 20th, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Nanette Christofferson “What is Fair”

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they 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?”

Philippians 1:21-30

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.

Matthew 20:1-16

“For 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.”