



GRACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH • SCHOOL



**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 - 5:00 PM  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 - 10:45 AM**

*(The \* indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

## **AS WE GATHER**

We find it hard not to notice others—what they have, what they earn, and how they live. What is worse, however, is that we constantly compare ourselves to others. Most of the time we figure that we are on the short end of the stick. But when it comes to the kingdom of God, there is no room for quick comparisons. Instead, we stand in awe of God’s rich mercy and generous grace. This is far more than we deserve. If we insist upon comparing our situation to others and complaining, God’s response is clear. Take what you have been given and leave. But if we let go of the comparisons, we find ourselves blessed beyond measure with His forgiveness, life and salvation.

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “With the Lord Begin Your Task”  
*(sts. 1 & 2)*

*Hymn 869*

**With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.**

**Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev’ry care; He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter’s might, With His presence cheer you.**

## **\*THE OPENING SENTENCES**

Leader: O Lord, hide not Your face from me.

**People: Turn not Your servant away in anger,**

Leader: O You who have been my help.

**People: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**

## **\*THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Vicar: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord’s name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not**

**let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

Vicar: Is this your sincere confession?

**People: I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.**

Vicar: As you believe, so let it be. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Vicar: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **\*THE DOXOLOGY**

*Hymn 805*

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

### **\*THE SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Vicar: Let us pray. O blessed Lord, since we cannot count on anything we have done, give us grace to count on Christ and His redeeming work upon the cross. As we delight in His grace, so give us humility to receive Your generosity without offense and trust in Your mercy alone for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **THE FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 55:6-9*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. <sup>8</sup>“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares

the LORD. <sup>9</sup>“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE ANTHEM**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  
(Kidz Choir)

K. Thompson

## **THE SECOND READING**

*Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

<sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly... <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup>I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup>but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. <sup>27</sup>Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved - and that by God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **\*THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 20:1-16*

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew , the twentieth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ <sup>7</sup>‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup>‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## [10:45] CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### \*SERMON HYMN

“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”  
(sts. 1 & 2)

*Hymn 827*

**Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
“Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—  
Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
“Here am I, send me, send me”?**

**Some take up His task in morning,  
To their Lord responding soon;  
Some are called in heat of midday,**

Others late in afternoon;  
Even as the sun is setting,  
Some are sent into the fields,  
There to gather in the bounty  
That God's Word so richly yields.

## **THE SERMON**

“Living or Dying?”

*Philippians 1:21*

### **\*CONFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: Hear our prayer.

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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 BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you  
peace.

People: Amen.

### **\*RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Lord of All Hopefulness”  
(sts. 1 & 3)

*Hymn 738*

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

### **POSTLUDE**

#### **Acknowledgments**

*Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright@ 1973, 1978, 1984, by International Bible Society. Used BY PERMISSION OF International Bible Society.*

## WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

### **SATURDAY, 5:00 PM**

The Preacher

The Organist

The Lector

The Usher/Greeter Team

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

Wynn Bonner

Roger Walker

Don & Connie March, Jennifer March

### **SUNDAY, 10:45 AM**

The Preacher

The Liturgist

The Organist

The Sound Technician

The Elder on Duty

The Lectors

The Welcome Team Greeter

At the Welcome Center

The Welcome Team Ushers

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

Vicar Michael Duffy

Wynn Bonner

Rodney Steffen

Janet Pabor

Angie Nierman, Steve Nierman

Jake McGee

Kathy McGee

Steve Hnatiuk, Dr. Ken Rogers,  
Barry Walkerc, Chris Zinsmeister