

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

Worship Focus

A Story of Perplexing Generosity



Calvary Lutheran Church
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Order of Service for SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service

The Service of the Word

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

576 – Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Stand

INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
 And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Sung by students of Calvary Lutheran School

Go Ye into the World

Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all the nations,
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

Go ye, go ye into the world and take the Gospel to all the people,
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

I am the vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;
I am the light, you, the reflection everywhere.

Go ye, go ye into the world and tell the story to all believers.
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Jonah is perplexed by the generous forgiveness God showed to the people of Nineveh.

¹JONAH 3:10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

²But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ³He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ⁴Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁵But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁶Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁷Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁸But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁹When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

¹⁰But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹¹But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹²And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

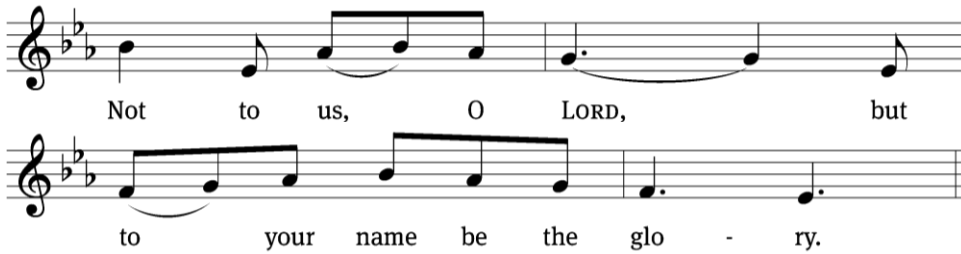
Thanks be to God.



PSALM

Psalm 115

Refrain



Not to us, O LORD, but
to your name be the glo - ry.

Tone



Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”
 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.
 The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:
 He will bless his people / Israel,
 he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
 small and / great alike.

Refrain

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
 he is their / help and shield.
 House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
 he is their / help and shield.
 You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
 he is their / help and shield.
 Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
 and to the Holy / Spirit,
 as it was in the be- / ginning,
 is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain



SECOND READING

Romans 9:6-16

God is perplexingly generous. He shows mercy and grace to those he chooses, regardless of any merit or worth.

ROMANS 9:6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ⁸In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹²not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells us a story of God's perplexing generosity.

MATTHEW 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷“ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸“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.’

⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹²‘These 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.’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

¹⁵Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Salvation unto Us Has Come

The worship team will sing the first 3 verses. The congregation is invited to join in verses 4-6 as comfortable.

1. Salvation unto us has come by God’s free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom; they help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, who did for all the world atone;
He is the one Redeemer.
2. What God does in his law demand and none to him can render.
Brings wrath and woe on every hand for man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires the spirit of the law requires,
And lost is our condition.
3. It is a false, misleading dream that God his law has given
That sinners can themselves redeem and by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright to bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

4. Yet as the law must be fulfilled or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
5. Since Christ has full atonement made and brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; your death is now my life indeed,
For you have paid my ransom.
6. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise to Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace – all glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heaven above, you have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 20:1-16

God is NOT Fair

1. that offends those who prefer performance
2. that delights those who grasp grace

Stand

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of
God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

Offerings can be given in any of these ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out
the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection
Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website,
<https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, embolden our congregation and all sister churches throughout the world to confess the truth steadfastly and to witness boldly to our only Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty Lord, bless this nation and all people in their rightful callings. Grant that we may serve our neighbors in love, and that all authorities would exercise their callings with humility and wisdom on behalf of the defenseless. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, the mourning or the dying [especially _____]. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the witness of the faithful who lived and died in Christ. Grant that at the last we, too, may be joined with them in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful Lord, grant that, in Christ, we may seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near, forsaking all wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

583 – God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
 deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

602 – Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!