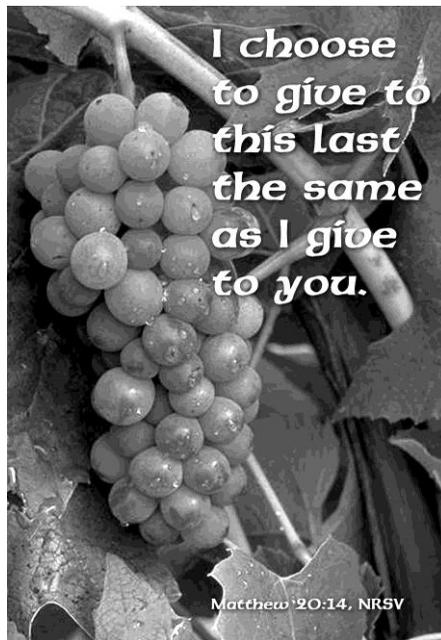


THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

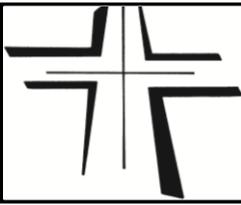
October 4, 2020

Worship Focus

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard:
Our God is Incomprehensively Generous



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Order of Service for EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship, p. 26

Service of Word and Sacrament © Northwestern Publishing House 1993.

"Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress

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✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

384 - By Grace I'm Saved



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less;
2 By grace God's Son, our on-ly Sav-ior,
3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom-ise
4 By grace to tim-id hearts that trem-ble,
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy-ing;



My soul, be-lieve and doubt it not. Why wa-ver
Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be-
When you are by your sins op-pressed, When Sa-tan
In trib-u-la-tion's fur-nace tried— By grace, de-
In Je-sus' prom-ise I re-joice. For though I



at this word of prom-ise? Has Scrip-ture ev-er
cause of your own mer-it That Je-sus died your
plagues your trou-bled con-science, And when your heart is
spite all fear and trou-ble, The Fa-ther's heart is
know my heart's con-di-tion, I al-so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -
 seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -
 o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -
 Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
 lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
 hend God by his grace to you did send.
 cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?
 flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



✠ The Word ✠

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:6-9

God's plans to save sinners by free grace is beyond anything we would have thought of.

ISAIAH 55:6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call on him while he is near.

⁷ 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.

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM

Sung by quartet

Psalm 27 – God Is My Strong Salvation

Words: James Montgomery, 1822, alt. 1988 P.D.

Music (CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN 7.6.7.6): Melchoir Vulpius, 1609, P.D.

Harmony: J.S. Bach

- 1. God is my strong salvation;
what foe have I to fear?
In peril and temptation
my light, my help, is near.*
- 2. Though hosts encamp around me,
firm to the fight I stand;
what terror can confound me,
with God at my right hand?*
- 3. Place on the Lord reliance;
my soul, with courage wait;
God's truth be thine affiance,
when faint and desolate.*
- 4. God's might thy heart shall strengthen,
God's love thy joy increase;
mercy thy days shall lengthen;
the Lord will give thee peace*

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:18b-27

Paul did not attempt to understand God's ways, rather he rejoiced that God's ways would be a blessing for him in life or death.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18b Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.²² 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!²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.²⁵ 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,²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

²⁷ 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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the workers in the vineyard illustrates that the way of grace runs counter to humankind's work-righteous sensibilities.

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

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

“He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing.⁶ 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?’

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.’

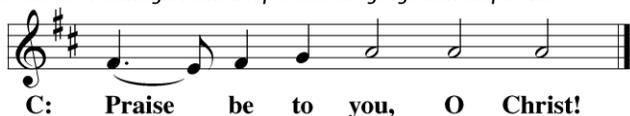
⁹ “The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them

also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘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.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

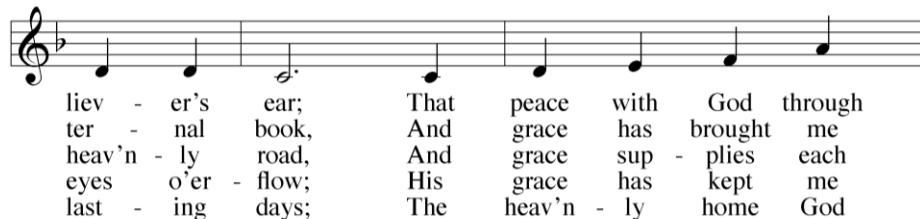
¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



HYMN OF THE DAY

381 – Grace Has a Thrilling Sound



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, st. 1, 3, 5, alt.; August M. Toplady, 1740–78, st. 2, 4, alt.
 Tune: ENERGY (SM) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 20:1-16

God Is Incomprehensibly Generous!

1. Be content with the generosity he shows you
2. Be happy with the generosity he shows others

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

✠ Prayers ✠

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.



✘ The Sacrament ✘

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

390 - Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die
5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,
sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for
And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

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 heav'n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

✠ Sending ✠

PRAYER

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 (+) give you peace.

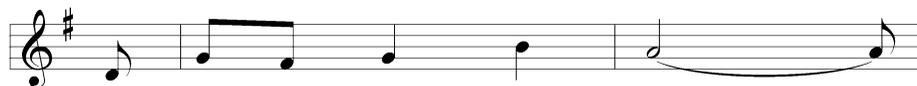


CLOSING HYMN

756 - We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch his hands and side
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief,
4 For you, O res - sur - rec - ted Lord,
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,



No gra - cious words we hear
Nor fol - low where he trod,
And may our faith a - bound
Are found in means di - vine:
In realms of clear - er light,



From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But in his prom - ise we re - joice
To call on you when you are near
Be - neath the wa - ter and the Word,
We may be - hold you as you are



But we be - lieve him near.
And cry, "My Lord and God!"
And seek where you are found.
Be - neath the bread and wine.
With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
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*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,
keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*