

*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*September 20, 2020*



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# DO YOU BEGRUDGE MY GENEROSITY?

## AS WE GATHER

A part of us expects justice from God. We think that fairness ought to reign—that each of us should get what we deserve. But this is a dead end. God does not give us what we deserve but acts with mercy and grace beyond belief. He is scandalously generous and lavish with us—giving us what we do not deserve and have not earned. We are tempted to ask God for equity and what we deserve, but God is determined to give us so much more in Christ. Only in faith can we learn to let God be God, to honor His generosity with the only response He desires: faith and thanksgiving. Today we pray the Lord to break through to our hearts and minds with His abundant grace and to rejoice that He is more than fair—He is merciful!

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” & Blest Be the Tie That Binds” (arr. Behnke)

## 861 CHRIST BE MY LEADER

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care,  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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## MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.  
*John 14:6*

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{I}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 27:9*

- P** Hide not Your face from me.
- C** Turn not Your servant away in anger,
- P** O You who have been my help.
- C** Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** 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.**

**P** Is this your sincere confession?

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

**P** 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 called and ordained 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.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** 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.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 55:6–9*

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found; <sup>6a</sup>call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored 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 live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

# HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### 720 WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.
- 2 We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry “My Lord and God!”
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.
- 4 For You, O resurrected Lord,  
Are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the Word,  
Beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.

**SERMON** “When You Can't Let It Go” Matthew 20:1-16

**CREED** Early Service – Nicene Creed Late Service – Apostles’ Creed  
*(Creeds can be found on the screens and on the back cover of the hymnal.)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition, please respond with the following:*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord,

**C** **Lord have mercy.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

**C** **Amen.**

***10:00 service please continue with the Lord’s Prayer & Benediction***

## **+ SACRAMENT +**

### **PREFACE**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **SANCTUS**

*LSB 195*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 198*

**C** **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## 550 LAMB OF GOD

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

**Refrain** O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

**C** **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

**P** Heavenly Father, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up envy and strife, and teach us to examine our own hearts that we be free from malice and ill will. Help us by Your grace so that we live lives worthy of the Gospel and live at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## 680 THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE

- 1 Thine the amen Thine the praise  
Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head  
Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally  
Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree  
All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing  
Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly Thine the yes  
Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee  
Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing  
Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize  
Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise  
Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story  
Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night  
No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree  
Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy  
Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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**POSTLUDE** “Psalm 19” (Marcello)

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Congregation at Prayer and Devotions for the Week

**Invocation** In the name of the Father, and of the Son  $\text{†}$ , and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Introit** (found on front page)

**Catechism Review** (found on front page)

**Meditation:** Portals of Prayer, [www.lhm.org/dailydevotions](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions), Other

## ***Daily Scripture Readings***

Sunday: Nehemiah 4:7-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-16  
Monday: Nehemiah 5:1-16; 6:1-9, 15-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-16  
Tuesday: Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18; 1 Timothy 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Nehemiah 9:1-21; 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2  
Thursday: Nehemiah 9:22-38; 1 Timothy 6:3-21  
Friday: Malachi 1:1-14; Matthew 3:1-17  
Saturday: Malachi 2:1-3:5; Matthew 4:1-11

## ***In Our Prayers This Week (as of Thursday morning)***

Roger, health issues	Al, health issues
Skip, recovering	Ken, recovering
Larry, heart issues	Marilyn, recovering
Becky, back pain	Jean, health issues
Camilla, 7-year-old with brain cancer	Sue, recovery
Jack, ongoing health issues	Denise, addictions
Beth, health issues	Linda, brain cancer
Eunice, Health Issues	Jackie's mother
Jim, Alzheimer's	Sharron's father
Roger, recovering	Vonna's mother
Lois, recovering	Bill, recovery
Terry, Health	
Sidney, granddaughter of Steinkes with medical issues	

For those in nursing homes, medical professionals, those whose employment is in question, and that the Lord would miraculously make all signs of this virus disappear so all may know it is by His merciful hand. For peace and humility to dwell in the hearts of the people of our land.

**Our Savior Families:** Daisy, Kathy, Tim and Family, Carol, Michael and Family, John, Tyler

**Hymn of the Week** "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" LSB 720

**Collect** (found on front page)

**Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction**