



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, 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!

Prelude

Welcome & Ringing of the Tower Bell

Confession and Absolution

869 With the Lord Begin Your Task

1 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.

2 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.

3 With your Savior at your side,
Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide,
And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose
In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows
How to stem disaster.

4 If your task be thus begun
With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run,
Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere
While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share
In the mansions yonder.

5 Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask,
Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun
Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done
To Your praise forever.

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P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
 and call on the name of the LORD.
 What shall I render to the LORD
 for all his benefits to me?
 I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call on the name of the LORD.
 Precious in the sight of the LORD
 is the death of his saints.
 O LORD, I am your servant;
 I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
 You have loosed my bonds.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

943 Kyrie – I

Cantor

. . . let us
 pray to the Lord:

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. (*hum*)

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1 All glory be to God alone,
 Forevermore the highest one,
 Who did our sinful race befriend
 And grace and peace to us extend.
 Among us may His gracious will
 All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let 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.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that

means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

- 1 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”?**
- 2 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.**
- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.**

**4 Harken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.**

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

953 We All Believe in One True God

- 1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

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Sermon "It's Not About Deserving" *Matt 20:1-16*

Prayer of the Church

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Stewardship Minute & Offering Prayer

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 216

- 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.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places ... To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.

P In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 217

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Sov'reign,
God of pow'r and Lord of might,
Your great glory fills creation,
Earth below and heaven's height.
So we sing our glad hosannas
Lord, to You, who reigns on high;
"Save us, Lord," your people clamor,
"Blessed is He who now draws nigh."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, the Lord's Messiah,
Take our sin and guilt away.
Lamb of God, anointed Savior,
Show us mercy, Lord, we pray.
Lamb of God, the Father's Chosen,
Here Your grace to us accord;
Reconcile us to the Father,
Grant us peace, we pray, O Lord.

Distribution of Holy Communion

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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Thanksgiving - 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

st. 1

- 1** O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
 In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
 Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
 Our weak souls that they may flourish:
 O Lord, have mercy!
 May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
 That our sins and sorrows did carry,
 And Thy blood for us plead
 In all trial, fear, and need:
 O Lord, have mercy!

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Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who
 in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh,
 we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and
 peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your
 children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy
 Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through
 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

A 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.**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (tune: LSB 842)

1 **There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that Christ did shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.**

2 **For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wond-er-ful-ly kind.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be transfigured,
By the goodness of the Lord.**

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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