

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020 | 9:45 am | Ascension Lutheran Church



## Words of Welcome

### Opening Sentences

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

**P** The LORD is my light and my salvation—

**G whom shall I fear?**

**P** The LORD is the stronghold of my life—

**G of whom shall I be afraid?**

**P** One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek:

**G that I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,**

**P** to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,

**G and to seek Him in His temple.**

**P** Yes, He will hide me in His shelter on the day of trouble.

**G He will hide me in His tent. He will set me high on a rock.** (Psalm 27:1, 4-5)

### Opening Hymn | LSB 744 (st. 1-3) "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"



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



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; His grace has brought me



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

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### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** As we come to the house of the Lord, we know that we are unworthy of God's love. We have sinned against friends and families, neighbors and co-workers.

**G 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?

**G I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for God's amazing 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.

**G Amen. I will sing and make melody to the Lord!**

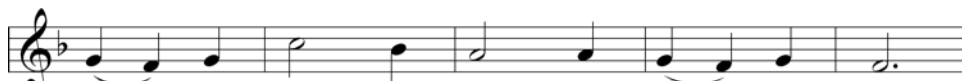
**Hymn of Praise** | LSB 821 (st. 1-2) "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we



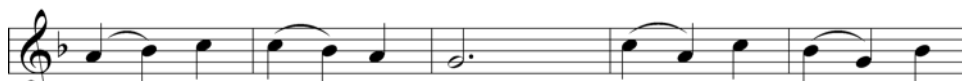
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of  
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."  
get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?"

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### Prayer of the Day

**P** Almighty God, You have promised amazing grace and mercy to those who cling to You in faith. Trusting in Your unconditional generosity, help us live our lives free from the worries and cares of this life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

### Old Testament 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 man abandon his way. Let an evil man abandon his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will show him mercy. Let him turn to our God, because He will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>Certainly My plans are not your plans, and your ways are not My ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My plans are higher than your plans.

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

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

### **Epistle Reading** | Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that the things which happened to me actually took place to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>And so it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to all the rest, that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And, through my chains, the majority of the brothers in the Lord have become much more confident about daring to speak the word of God fearlessly . . . <sup>19</sup>because I know that this will turn out for my deliverance, through your prayer and the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. <sup>20</sup>This matches my earnest expectation and hope that I will in no way be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, so even now, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>Yes, for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>But if I am to go on living in the flesh, that will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet which should I prefer? I do not know. <sup>23</sup>I am pulled in two directions, because I have the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far. <sup>24</sup>But, it is more necessary for your sake that I remain in the flesh. <sup>25</sup>And since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you, for your progress and joy in the faith. <sup>26</sup>And so by my coming to you again, my goal is to give you even more reason to boast in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Just conduct yourselves in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to see you or am absent, I may hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, contending together with one soul for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>not frightened in any way by the adversaries. This is a sign for them of their destruction and of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been graciously granted to you on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, <sup>30</sup>having the same kind of struggle that you saw I was in, and that you now hear I am still experiencing.

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

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

### **Holy Gospel** | Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup>Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. <sup>4</sup>To these he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. <sup>11</sup>After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: <sup>12</sup>'Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!' <sup>13</sup>But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. <sup>15</sup>Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last."

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

## **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn of the Day** | LSB 827 (st. 1 & 2) "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"  
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields.

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## Message

### Hymn of Response | LSB 827 (st. 3 & 4) "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"



3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,  
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;  
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—  
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.  
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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## Profession of Faith | Apostles' Creed

**A** *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.*

**Solo** | "More Precious Than Silver" | Jay Rouse | Elliott and Anita Werner

### Prayers of the Church

**P** Dear heavenly Father, You are the Lord of the harvest. Raise up missionaries who are willing to spread the Gospel of life and salvation to the ends of the earth. Grant them confidence and zeal to do Your work. Send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who will hear the Word of Christ, that they may believe in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, You are our rock and our refuge. Grant Your peace to all those who live in fear, especially immigrants, refugees, and all who are oppressed. Be their light and their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, look with favor upon those who are homeless, unemployed, or underemployed. Grant them patience in the midst of suffering and meaningful vocations in Your perfect timing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, we know that Your ways are not our ways, but sometimes we fail to understand Your will. Strengthen the hearts of those who are coping with disappointment, especially those struggling with infertility or miscarriage. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, we ask Your blessing and healing upon all who are sick or recovering, (especially...). Cheer their hearts and heal their bodies according to Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, comfort those who mourn the death of loved ones, (especially...). We know that to live is Christ and to die is gain. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, hopeful for His return, our resurrection, and the restoration of all creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord, You are the source of every good and perfect gift. We rejoice today with those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions, (especially...). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

(Other special petitions may be offered here.)

**P** Finally, Lord, guide Your Church to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, standing firm in unity and truth as a witness to the world of Your light and salvation, we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who has taught us how to pray:

**A** *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.*

### 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.**

**Closing Hymn** | LSB 782 (st. 1, 3-4) "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"

1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
 3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior  
 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing

New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
 Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of  
 Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and

nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.  
 ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

*Refrain*

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,

Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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### Sending

- P** Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- G** **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude