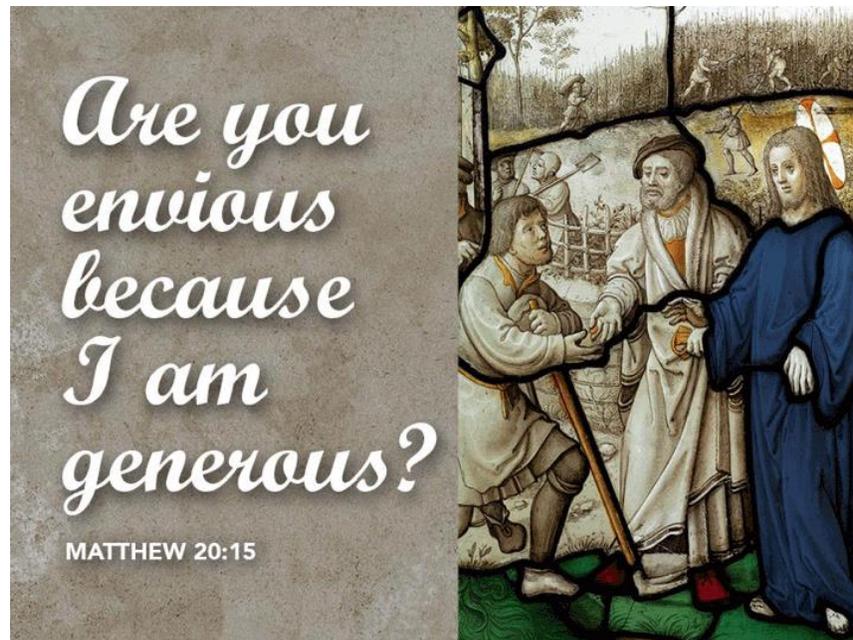


The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20, 2020



*"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"*

Grace Lutheran Church

111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86

Eaton, Ohio 45320

937.456.6258 ~ Fax: 937.456.4293

[gracelc@embarqmail.com](mailto:gracelc@embarqmail.com) ~ [www.gracelutheranofeaton.com](http://www.gracelutheranofeaton.com)

Pastor Dwight Hanson

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (Silence for personal reflection.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **GATHERING HYMN:           *“Jesus Shall Reign”*       (LBW 530)**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

### **GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray: Steadfast God, you are slow to anger and your mercy endures forever. We all stand in your presence as beggars, completely undeserving of your mercy and grace. Awaken in us such a sense of gratitude that our own lives may reflect your overflowing generosity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the Lord while he may be found; 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.” The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm 27:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

<sup>4</sup>And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

<sup>5</sup>One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

<sup>6</sup>To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>7</sup>For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>8</sup>Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>11</sup>You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.

<sup>12</sup>Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

<sup>13</sup>You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

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

A reading from Philippians.

<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>... {F}or 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.

### **\*Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} “For 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." The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:**

Imagine what it would be like to be a bird up in one of these trees above us, looking down. What must they be thinking as they see all these people gathered for worship? It's hard to know what a bird thinks about. Any guesses? It's a funny thing to think about. But surely they see things in a different manner.

Now raise your eyes even higher, to the heavens. How do you think God sees things on earth? He knows that people often have disagreements, get really stubborn, and are often unkind to each other, while insisting that we're right to do so. He also knows that we have a hard time forgiving. God, however, is delighted to forgive. He knows how to make us new in heart and soul. He doesn't sit and become angrier and more vengeful. He takes great joy in even just one person turning to him in humble prayer. Listen again to these words from the Lord: "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts*" (Is. 55:9). Let's pray...

### **SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson**

#### **Vineyard Workers**

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

My grade-school assignment was to interview someone who had lived through the Great Depression and write a report on it. When I told my Mom about the task, she got a grin on her face and pointed down the driveway. Jack and Catherine were the closest neighbors to my home farm, about a quarter of a mile away. They were old-fashioned, plain living people, dwelling in a modest house that most likely dated back to the late

1800s. It was painted an exciting olive green. My young mind couldn't imagine that these unassuming people could have fascinating stories to tell. They just seemed content. Now I realize what a gift "contentment" is, and how much our world is crying out for it.

Catherine, as I remember, was either tending a large garden, or canning produce from it, the harvest piled on her table, as big pots boiled on the stove, and kitchen windows fogged up with steam. Her counters and basement shelves were filled with jars. And being neighbors of the generous kind, they shared what they had, never keeping track. As a kid, I remember having some uncertainty about some of the vegetables in those jars. But that's because I had the luxury of being fussy. I hadn't lived as they had.

Jack, it turned out, was the storyteller. But before we settled into two of the oldest chairs I had ever seen, a card game of cribbage had to be played. Then, in preparation for stories, there was the candy dish. Some of you can picture it, an ancient, decorative, glass bowl filled with hard candies of various kinds, well-aged, probably left over from Christmas—in 1933! The candies had pretty much melted into a single clump. So, one literally had to break off a piece. Then, as an impossibly large chunk of sharp-edged candy rendered me silent, Jack leaned back in his antique chair and began to talk about the old days.

The first thing I needed to know was that his real name wasn't Jack. That caught my attention! An assumed name could mean many things. As it turned out, through the years, Darryl—his real name—had earned a reputation as a "jack-of-all-trades." Thus, in an age of nicknames, he became "Jack". How he learned all those trades came next.

It turned out that Jack had been a "hobo" in depression days, out on his own trying to find the next job, the next meal. He had hopped onto trains, sat by campfires at night, and he had eaten beans out of a can, all while keeping an ear open for work, anywhere it could be found. I remember mumbling something foolish, that it sounded rather fun. His brow quickly furrowed, and he spoke of the many overwhelming worries of tough times. Real life had called a generation to rise up to the challenge of it all.

The description of his time in a logging camp captivated my Paul Bunyan imagination. He and other men, desperate for work, had slept in a big bunk room. They got up early, ate breakfast, worked all day, ate supper, played cards for a while, wrote a letter, and then, with the sun having set, it was lights out. Only to do the exact same thing the next day. Not quite the intriguing scenario I had first imagined. In fact, it sounded a little like a prison chain gang, and foolishly, I said so out loud.

Jack's response turned my school assignment into a life-lesson. He sat back in his chair, put both hands on the wooden sides, and summed up those early days this way: He was "*grateful for the work, glad for the pay, and delighted with the meals.*" In other words, the sum total of all that he'd been through added up to thankfulness. This was a different kind of math! Hard times and cold beans had taught him to value good companions, honest work and wages, and the simple blessings of life. When you have nothing, a little means a lot. Jack and Catherine gave me a first-hand account of what we mean when we pray for God to give us our "daily bread."

So, what's missing from some of the vineyard workers mentioned in the Gospel? They had no sense of perspective and gratitude. Matthew 20: "*Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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'*" (vss. 10-12; ESV). They expected to receive more. But where did their expectations come from?

Grumbling instead of gratitude is something that comes all too quickly to our fallen human nature, whether it's back in New Testament times, or this very day. Instead of appreciating what they had, they compared, and in that comparison, they began to develop strong assumptions. The impression that they formed was that they had been unfairly treated. Was that the case?

You heard the reading, one day's wages for one day's labor. That was the agreement. Technically, the landowner wasn't unfair to them at all. He was just really generous to others. Granted, it's no way to run a business. But is that what we're really talking about here, best business practices? Listen again to the first line from today's Gospel: "*For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard*" (Mt. 20: 1). This is about service within the "kingdom of heaven."

The landowner is the Lord, and the labor is a harvest mission for him. In terms of payment, can't the Almighty do as he pleases? The whole matter may strike some people as unfair. But we may want to ask ourselves just who we think we are in the story? What assumptions and expectations have we developed?

Are we the long-time laborers, or, perhaps, the new kids in the Kingdom? Historically speaking, *we're the new ones, the late-comers*. That changes things, doesn't it? Many of the saints of old, going all the way back to the first century, carried quite serious burdens and served God amid the world's blistering heat of persecution. Nevertheless, God freely gives to us the whole blessing of the kingdom right along with the Apostles. Is it fair? Such a question, in itself, isn't wrong, just misguided. But fallen human beings have been known to miss the point.

The truth is that the riches of God cannot be parceled out on a graded pay-scale. The benefit, at the end of the day, can only be given in full. How does one divide up the peace of Christ? Can a person receive just a tenth of a smile from the Lord Jesus? How could we quantify the appreciation of a person who needed to hear that there's more to life than the troubles of earth, the vicious slander, endless envy, and greedy grasping? We need to get rid of the soul-pollution that enters our fallen minds in the question: What's in it for me? That way of being turns other people into obstacles instead of opportunities. How much more critical these matters become when we take to heart the fact that we are the late arrivals at the gates of God's vineyard, recipients of far more than we have deserved?

We fully receive. Let us fully engage in God's Kingdom labors. Faithfulness means seeking to please the King, eyes on him, not side-glancing, seeking to beat out a fellow worker.

Jack and Catherine's old green house stands no more, just as many things have been swept away by the winds of time. But some things endure. I can hear Jack chuckling at today's Gospel. "Yes, plenty of work in the Kingdom of Heaven. Good accommodations, a simple meal that's surprisingly satisfying, and wages the likes of which no amount of money can compare." Part of the job that God gave to Jack involved sharing his time and his stories with a pesky neighbor kid, who still remembers all of it fondly. To what mission has God called you? And in what manner will you consider yourself paid in full?

Whatever task God sets before us, we're to do it well, latecomers though we may be. In terms of the Kingdom, are we not all beggars, as Luther said on the last day of his earthly life? Are we not in some sense just like my old neighbor, traveling along, *grateful for the work, glad for the pay, and hungry for the feast to come?*

Jesus provides the bread of life, while the cup overflows with forgiveness, so that our envious hearts of stone may soften and know the fulfillment, peace and fellowship of Heaven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LBW 410)**

- 1 We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.
- 2 May we thy bounties thus  
as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us,  
to thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 Hearts still are bruised and dead,  
and homes are bare and cold,  
and lambs for whom the Shepherd bled  
are straying from the fold.
- 4 To comfort and to bless,  
to find a balm for woe,  
to tend those lost in loneliness,  
is angels' work below.
- 5 The captive to release,  
the lost to God to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace--  
it is a Christlike thing.
- 6 And we believe thy word,  
though dim our faith may be:  
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,  
we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under

Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

Let us pray: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, by your call we are workers in your holy Kingdom, beginning on earth and stretching into eternity. Grant us grateful hearts, satisfied with all that you have provided for us, and happy for others to join in the joy of the harvest. We continue to pray for all who face economic uncertainty. Open up possibilities for them, and teach us all to look to you, our gracious God.

Give us eyes to see the blessings of past, present and future.

We pray for the whole Christian Church on earth to be mission-driven. Bless this congregation, Bishop Selbo, and all NALC staff and ministries. Bless our Mission District, and all outreach partners: Military Veterans and Families Ministries; Allison and Campus Outreach; Transfiguration Lutheran Mission; Chris, Emily and family in the World Mission Prayer League; and helpful organizations within our own community.

Strengthen all of us to serve the one Lord, Jesus.

We pray for Sunday Schools, teachers, students and families, that important Bible lessons may be learned, and sacred relationships formed, for the ongoing mission of faith through the generations.

Grant us, O Lord, the faith of children.

We pray for the needs of the world. Especially we lift up before you all who have faced storms along the Gulf Coast, and fires out west. Inspire resilience, helpfulness and generosity among all people. Draw us together, and draw us deeper into prayer and trust. Continue to help us with this awful virus. Bless health care workers, researchers, and patients who suffer. Guide all who make decisions for our nation at all levels of government.

Inspire us to treat each other fairly, and to respect proper authority.  
Strengthen all who serve in harm's way, and their families. Lord, in your  
mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We entrust to your care all who are in need of healing: *Katherine Scholz, Claude Dixon, District Dean—Paul Schultz, Bob Allison, The Renner Family, Cary Giordano, Kelly Coffman, Marcetta Perry, Naia Miller, Jan Spitler, Glenn Lakes, Marti Good-Ernst, Gail Allison, Mark Emrick, Jody Bierd, Therese Mangino, Bishop John Bradosky, Martha Ikers, Bryan Dehner, Elsie Burkle, Janet Hardin, Gretchen Edwards, Joslynn Beneke, Tom Schamel*, as well as those whom we name in our hearts (*silent prayer*).

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

Trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OFFERING:** (Offerings may be sent to the Church Office:  
P.O. Box 86, Eaton, OH 45320)

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: LBW #565**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.

**COMMUNION HYMNS: “Softly and Tenderly” (WOV 734)**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

*Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

***“My Faith Looks Up To Thee” (LBW 479)***

1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!

**BLESSING:**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Let us pray: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one Heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**BENEDICTION:**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN:**        *“Lord Dismiss Us” (LBW 259)*

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,  
trav'ling through this wilderness.
  
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.
  
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us,  
glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
reign with you in endless day.

## **DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

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**GRACE AT A GLANCE**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

111 Lutheran Dr., P.O. Box 86 - Eaton, OH 45320

Phone: 937-456-6258 Email: [gracelc@embarqmail.com](mailto:gracelc@embarqmail.com)

[www.gracelutheranofeaton.com](http://www.gracelutheranofeaton.com) ~ ~ **Like us on Facebook**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

**TODAY**

9:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

**September 20, 2020—Pentecost 16**

Worship w/Holy Communion (Outdoor)

Sunday School for all ages (Outdoor)

**Monday**

**September 21**

Pastor's Day Off

6:00 p.m.

Men's Disciple Group (GLC)

6:30 p.m.

Men's Disciple Group (Schamel's)

6:30 p.m.

Women's Disciple Group (GLC)

**Tuesday**

**September 22**

**Homeless Shelter Meal: Phoebe Small Group**

7:00 p.m.

Worship Committee Meeting (FH)

7:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (Shelter)

**Wednesday**

**September 23**

9:00 a.m.

Prayer & Bible Study (FH)

3:00 p.m.

Confirmation

**Thursday**

**September 24**

7:30 p.m.

AA Meeting (Shelter)

**Friday**

**September 25--PRODUCTION DAY**

**Saturday**

**September 26**

1:00 p.m.

Emrick Family Reunion & Wedding (FH/Shelter)

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**  
**Altar Guild for September:** Barb & Mike Studebaker  
**Offering Counters for September:** Patty Barnes

**September 20, 2020 — 9:30 a.m.**

**Greeter / Ushers:** Bryan Jackson  
**\*\*Lectors:** Amy Jackson  
**Communion Assistant:** Amy Jackson, Patty Barnes

**September 27, 2020—9:30 a.m.**

**Greeter / Ushers:** John Barnes  
**\*\*Lectors:** John Barnes

\*\* Lectors, please read the Lessons and Prayers of the Church.

**Attendance & Stewardship — (\$4,187 needed wkly)**

09.13.2020      9:30 a.m.    81                      \$4,057.00

***Great Commission Outreach Partners:***

*World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family (South Asia)*  
*Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries*  
*Transfiguration Lutheran Mission*

**Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund:** The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact: Pastor Dave Matevia @ 937-733-6907

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

*Please keep us updated prayer needs by calling the office or making a note on the back of your “Attendance & Communion Registration” form. Thank you.*

**URGENT PRAYER LIST:**

**HEALING:**

***Katherine Scholz:*** (Mother of Janet Burkett)  
***Claude Dixon:*** (Brother of Suzie Dell)  
***District Dean—Paul Schultz***

**Bob Allison:** (Son-in-Law of Judy Newkirk)  
**The Renner Family:** (Friends of Kelly Coffman)  
**Cary Giordano:** (Sister of Kelly Coffman)  
**Kelly Coffman**  
**Marcetta Perry:** (Aaron Kerr's 98 yo grandmother)  
**Naia Miller:** (Sister of Pastor Dave Matevia)  
**Jan Spitler:** (Friend of Teresa Leyes)  
**Glenn Lakes:** (Friend of Elaine Fudge)  
**Marti Good-Ernst**  
**Gail Allison:** (Daughter of Judy Newkirk)  
**Mark Emrick**  
**Jody Bierd:** (Aunt of John Ingram)  
**Therese Mangino:** (Teddi Watkins' daughter)  
**Bishop John Bradosky**  
**Martha Ikers:** (Relative of Mary Shetter)  
**Bryan Dehner**  
**Elsie Burkle**  
**Janet Hardin**  
**Gretchen Edwards**  
**Joslynn Beneke**  
**Tom Schamel:** (Son of Mike & Judy)

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST ...** Tyson Helman, Pastor Dave Matevia, Sandy Haferman, Duane Kester, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Sheryl Deaton, Barbara Worley, Phyllis Lantis, Carolyn MacFadyen, Joan Larrison, Shirley Bowles, Paula Hilleary, Karen Crosier, Travis Howard, Judy Jay, Bea Breeden, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Bruce Perry, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Charla Winter, Tom Barnes, Mary Geeding, Dorothy Bradley, Phyllis Turner: and those serving in the military: LCpl Hannah Perry; Capt. Love Hartman; Capt. John Ketteman; SPC Brandon Mann; Brad Newkirk; Maj. Justin Shetter; 1st Lt. Nicholas Webb, Maj. Kyle Hundly, Brandon Leonard also all those dealing with mental health issues, including PTSD.

## **Opportunities for Prayer and Bible Study:**

- **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study following 9:30 worship.**
- **The Phoebe Women's Small Group Bible Study.** They meet at 7:00 p.m. on the ***2nd Monday of each month***. Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or email: [Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com)).
- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall and is currently studying the Old Testament. Contact: Tom Haynes (937-733-7183) or Judy Hacker (456-6823).

**These studies are open to any member and our friends. No prior Bible study background is needed. Please bring your Bible.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE:** While we worship outdoors, the ushers will hand out Attendance Records for you to fill out. Please do so and return them to the white offering box. We are trying to be sure that we are seeing everyone and making sure our congregation is being reached in every way possible. Thank you.

**Meals for the Homeless:** Grace Lutheran church is providing meals to the homeless shelter on the **Tuesday of the third full week** in each month. We need volunteers for One More Month in 2020. Please contact Judy Schamel 937-533-6066, for any additional information or if you are able to help on the following date: **December 22**. Thank you again to all who have volunteered to provide this very important ministry to the homeless in our community.

## **Children's Corner for September**

**Sunday School:** Regular Sunday School begins today (after worship). This year, we are planning “**Outdoor Adventure Camp**” **Sunday School** for the early fall. We will use the beautiful fields and grounds of Grace to tell Bible stories.

**All families are asked to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets for their children (and themselves!), as well as masks. We plan to follow public health guidelines in all we do.**

For any families who are concerned about meeting in person at present, we will have an **online curriculum available**, which will follow the same Bible story schedule as our Outdoor Adventure Camp. That way, no one will be left behind! Any cancellations due to weather will be posted on the Grace Lutheran Facebook page that morning.

Questions? Please contact Kelly Hanson or Kelly Coffman for more details.



## Kingdom Wages

Find the 33 **bold** words from Matthew 20:8-13, 16 (ESV)

E S E E A B X D D O F F R D B  
B L E N G S E R B I R L E B U  
A A E G O N A W R I A I C W R  
G F G V A Y I S E S L Y E T D  
R N E R E W T N T P H A I H E  
E V I N R N D X E G C D V G N  
E U I V B W T R D V A G E U B  
S V M E I O I H M O E N D O J  
O M A S T E R E N W O I H H U  
L L A C D I C N D W E H X T E  
O N L Y A P S E E R O C E S C  
L A B O R E R S R Q U R U A E  
D E L B M U R G I Y O O K Q T  
E Q U A L S N N H M H C H E D  
N E K E Q J M J G I N S P T D

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.” And when those **hired** about the **eleventh hour** came, **each** of them **received** a **denarius**. Now when those hired first came, they **thought** they would receive **more**, but each of them also received a denarius. And on **receiving** it they **grumbled** at the **master** of the **house**, 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**.” But he **replied** to one of them, **Friend**, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not **agree** with me for a denarius? So the last will be **first**, and the first **last**.”

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## Today's Gospel Lesson

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

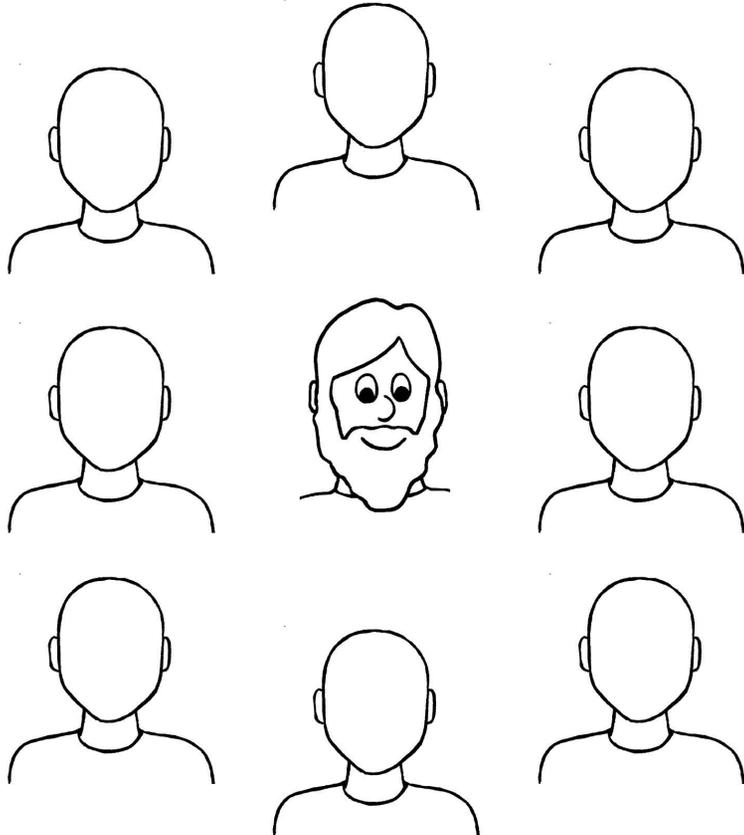


“The last will be first, and the first will be last,”  
Jesus said.

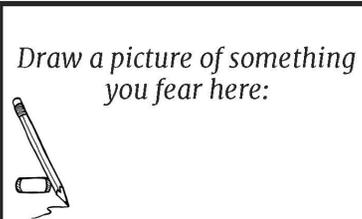
## Children's Worship Pages

Jesus told a parable about a man who paid all his workers the same amount of money, no matter how long they worked. The man wanted the workers to be thankful for what they had been given, rather than looking around at others.

*Look at Jesus. Then, draw faces on the people around him, showing that they are looking at Jesus and not at each other.*



God loves us and has promised to protect and save us.  
We don't need to fear anything at all!



*Draw a picture of something you fear here:*

*Take this fear to Jesus with a prayer:*

Dear Jesus,

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Tell him what you fear.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Ask for his help.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Thank him for a time in the past when he helped you.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Tell Jesus how you feel about him.)*

In your name I pray, Amen

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)*