

The Divine Service
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020



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!

Call to Worship / Check In

Words of Welcome/Theme of the Day

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **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.**

Pastor: Is this your sincere confession?

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

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **And also with you.**

Processional Hymn "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" *LSB 827 verses 1 & 2*



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.

Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain TEXT (st. 2): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000828

Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:6–9

Pastor: 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.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

Pastor: 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 can not 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
People: **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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day "We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight" LSB 720 Verses 1,3,5



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
may our faith a - bound To call on You when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
You are near And seek where You are found.
as You are, With full and end - less sight.

Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000828

Sermon

"It's Not Fair"

Pastor Scott Henze

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "Lord in your mercy" Congregation responds, "Hear Our Prayer"

Rite of Confirmation

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's command. The fulfillment of His command we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church.

Jesus said: "Whoever confesses Me before others, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies Me before others, I will deny him before My Father in heaven."

Rejoice in the peace of God and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as a minister of His Church, I now shall ask you.

Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmands and Congregation: Yes, I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Confirmands and Congregation: Yes, I do.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Confirmands and Congregation: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Confirmands and Congregation: Yes, I believe 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands and Congregation: Yes, 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.

Confirmation of Instruction

The Solemn Vow of the Parent

Solemn Vow of the Congregation

Pastor: The promises made by these young people and parents are difficult to fulfill. They need God's help and our prayers and encouragement. Since the best encouragement is a good example, let us pray together...

All: Give us strength, O God, to set a good example for these Confirmands by using God's Word daily in our homes, worshipping regularly in church, and receiving Holy Communion frequently. Give us the power to live a more God-pleasing life, and may we, with these young men and women, grow more and more as disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Commitment and Blessing of the Confirmands

The Prayer for the Confirmands

Gathering of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

People: **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.**

Announcements

Benediction



Numbers 6:24-25

Recessional Verse "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" LBS 827 verses 3 & 4



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.

Text: © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000828

Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as...

People: Disciples making disciples.

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Thank you for worshiping with us today. We hope and pray you had a chance to see Christ in a very personal and real way. If you have a prayer request or would like to talk to the pastor or one of our Stephen Ministers contact the church office at 954-384-9096 or by email at office@stpaulweston.org.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Presidents Equip Conference -September 24-26; This virtual conference enables you to choose from a wide variety of speakers and breakout sessions from the Florida – Georgia District of the LCMS. Register Today!

Discovering Life With God - Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 AM. This class is a great introduction to what Lutheran's believe and teach. It is open to all and serves as a path to membership here at St. Paul.

Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, October 4, 4:00 PM here at St. Paul spread out on the front lawn area. Bring your pet for this special blessing in honor of St. Francis Day. Pet Parade, music, raffles and more!

First Communion Instruction - Saturday, October 10 at 9:00 AM. This one day class for children entering 5th grade or youth turning 10 years old or those who missed the training last year. Students and at least one parent are required to attend together.

15th Annual St. Paul Golf Tournament -Saturday, October 24 at Eagle Trace Golf Club in Coral Springs. Sign-up today!

Trunk or Treat - Friday, October 30; 6:00 PM –7:30 PM
Decorate your car, brings some treats and come on out to the St. Paul parking lot! Food, Fellowship and fun at a safe distance!

Call the church office at 954-384-9096 for more information.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Marlene Michael, Preschool Director

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.