



God's Grace Is Undeserved

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

ANTHEM (8:15)

God of Grace | 6th Grade

HYMN (10:45)

Lord of All Hopefulness | #59

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on

us. For you only are holy. You on - ly are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the

glory of God the Father. A - men.

Service of the Word

The readings for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost tell us God is not fair as we think of it — he does not give us what we deserve. Instead, he is shockingly generous in our favor; and that's called grace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray for the gift of grace: Loving and righteous God, you are far more generous to us, and to all who work in your kingdom, than we desire or deserve. Make us generous to others as you have been to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 9:6–16

Since no one ever earns grace, no one can complain when someone else has received it.

⁶ It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ⁸ In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls — she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1–16

In the kingdom of heaven, the amount of salvation we get does not depend on the amount of work we do. Don't complain about God's gift; marvel at its size.

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Salvation Unto Us Is Come | #227: v. 1, 3, 5–7

Let us not be angry that God is gracious to our enemies, but stand amazed at the size of his grace.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

^{4:1} But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴ But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

HYMN

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.". The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.".

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.**

OFFERING

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

PRAYER

P: We ask you, almighty God, that you give your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above. We ask that your word may not be restrained but have freedom to be preached for the joy and learning of Christ's holy people. And we ask that in loyal faith we may serve you and live in the confession of your name until the end. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is on a single treble clef staff. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The third measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F4 with a sharp sign, and a half note on E4. A slur is placed under the notes of the third measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Meditate on Psalm 115 at home throughout this week.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Bernt Tweit
Organist (Sunday).....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Lynn Handberg



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