

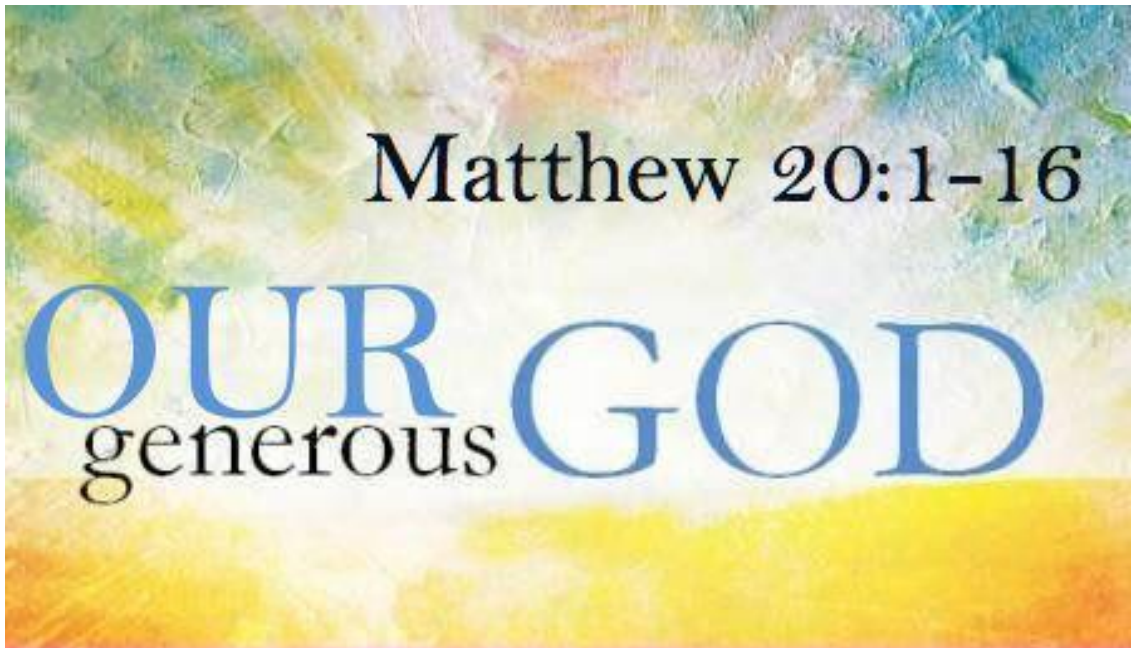
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PASTOR TOM HURLEY



September 20, 2026

“GOD’S GENEROSITY”

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

*Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here*

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome

Gathering Music

Our celebration begins with this morning's pre-service music selection. Use this time to prepare your heart for worship by reading and meditating on the lessons for today.



Invocation and Prayer

Leader: In our minds, justice seems strong while mercy appears weak. In reality, mercy is stronger than justice and greater in every way. While justice may seem appealing to us, what we seek from God is not fairness or equity, but mercy. Mercy is what must be taught to our sinful hearts, and for this reason, it remains the higher or greater path. Justice we can understand and reason, but mercy requires God to become flesh in His Son, to suffer and die as the Innocent One for our sins, and to rise to bestow upon us grace and mercy we neither earned nor deserve. Such mercy is a scandal to us and can often be an offense to those who do not realize the magnitude of its gift. Today, we ask the Lord to open our eyes so that we may acknowledge and rejoice in His great gift of mercy and pardon in Jesus and walk worthy of this grace every day.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

People: **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

Leader: O Lord, I am Your servant.

People: **I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.**

Leader: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, You have not dealt with us in justice, but in mercy, giving Your only Son into our death and raising Him to deliver us to everlasting life. Help us so to know the riches of Your grace that we may not begrudge You Your scandalous generosity, but depend upon it for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: Almighty God,
People: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess to You that we have sinned. We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Because of the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgiving us all that is past and granting us the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent. The Lord keep you in His grace and favor and brings you to everlasting life. 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 Jesus 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.



Opening Song: "Seek Ye First" – LSB #712

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

(SCRIPTURE READINGS ON PAGE 7-8)

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6 – 9

Reader: This is God's Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:12 – 14, 19 – 30

Reader: This is God's Word.

People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading: Mathew 20:1 – 16

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



Song of the Day: "On Eagles' Wings" – LSB #727

Message: "God's Generosity" – Pastor Tom Hurley

So the
last *will be*
first,
and the **first**
will be
last.
Matthew 20:16

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

 **Apostles' Creed – (*speak together*)**

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.

The Prayers – Congregation response, “**Hear our prayer.**”

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.



WE GO OUT TO SHARE GOD'S GRACE



Closing Litany: "To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul"

"Singing Thru The Scriptures" ©2023 Rev. John C. Stennfeld

Leader: To You, O Lord, I lift my soul, In You, my God, I trust;

People: **Let not my foes come conquer me, Or shame me in the dust.**

Leader: No one whose hope resides in You Will e'er be put to shame,

People: **For those who hope in You will find Forgiveness in Your name.**

Leader: Show me Your ways, O Lord, my God, Teach me to follow You,

People: **For You alone, my Savior are – My hope my whole life through.**

Leader: Remember not my errant ways, The sins of all my youth,

People: **But in Your love remember me, And guide me in Your truth.**

Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace. In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Closing Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" – LSB #733



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM – Join us after service today for the Adult Forum or Monday mornings at 9:30 on Zoom for our Adult Forum. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email.

SERVING IN THE LORD’S FIELD TODAY: SERVING IN THE LORD’S FIELD NEXT SUNDAY:

Lay Leader: Nelson Gremmels
Comm. Assistant: **No Comm.*
Ushers/Greeter: John & Gail Hutson
Reader: Doug Holm
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: **Cecilia Bowman*
Counter: Shirley Gremmels
Fellowship: John & Gail Hutson

Lay Leader: Dwayne Warren
Comm. Assistant: Dwayne Warren
Usher/Greeter: Sherrald McMurray
Reader: Nancy Warren
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: Judy Montoya
Counter: Chuck Bakken
Fellowship: Dwayne & Nancy Warren

**No Communion on these Sundays. Altar person will fill the candles on the Altar, change and light the hanging candle.*

BIRTHDAY: None

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: John & Cecilia Bowman

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Joseph Worthington (*Grandson of the Bakken's*) and LTJG Charles Gremmels (*Grandson of Nelson & Shirley Gremmels*).

SURGERY/ILLNESS/PRAYER REQUEST:

Beverly Erbel – Prayers for healing of her broken wrist.

Mike Gremmels – Prayers for recovery from surgery.

Max Newman – Prayers for recovery from stem cell transplant.

Lance Desmond – Prayers for kidney transplant to become available soon, for successful treatment for his neuropathy, and successful hernia surgery.

Joy Bloom – Prayers for comfort and peace.

Eddie Hailey – Prayers for completely healing his brain damage (*Sherrald McMurray's brother*).

Fern Johnson – Prayers for her continued health and her move to Nevada.

Carmen Roncancio – Prayers for her health and for her great-grandson, Gabriel & his father, Daniel.

Ken Benson – Continued healing from cancer.



First Reading: Isaiah 55:6 – 9

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

Second Reading: Philippians 1:12 – 14, 19 – 30

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

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ 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, **(over)**

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

Holy Gospel: Mathew 20:1 – 16

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

