



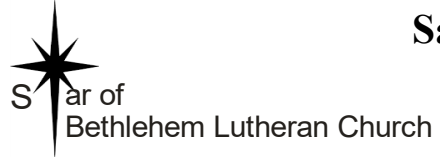
**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Are you **envious**  
because I am  
*generous?*”

MATTHEW 20:15



**NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

## Worship Service

*Sunday, October 4, 2020 10:00 a.m.*

### The Eighteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

**Theme of the day:** What is God like? Over the next four Sundays, the Church hears Jesus tell four parables which reveal characteristics of our God. Today's lesson causes us to ask: Is God fair? No, he's not. He doesn't give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace.

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**Families** are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

## OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

**OPENING HYMN: # 381 “Grace Has a Thrilling Sound”**

♪ **Grace has a thrilling sound To each believer’s ear;  
That peace with God through Christ is found  
Is news I gladly hear.**

**Grace first inscribed my name In God’s eternal book,  
And grace has brought me to the Lamb,  
Who all my sorrows took.**

**Grace led my wand’ring feet To tread the heav’nly road,  
And grace supplies each hour I meet  
While pressing on to God.**

**Grace taught my soul to pray And made my eyes o’erflow;  
His grace has kept me to this day And will not let me go.**

**Grace all our work shall crown Through everlasting days;  
The heav’nly home God gives his own  
Shall echo with our praise.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

Confession of Sins

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: ♪ Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

**♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.**

M: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

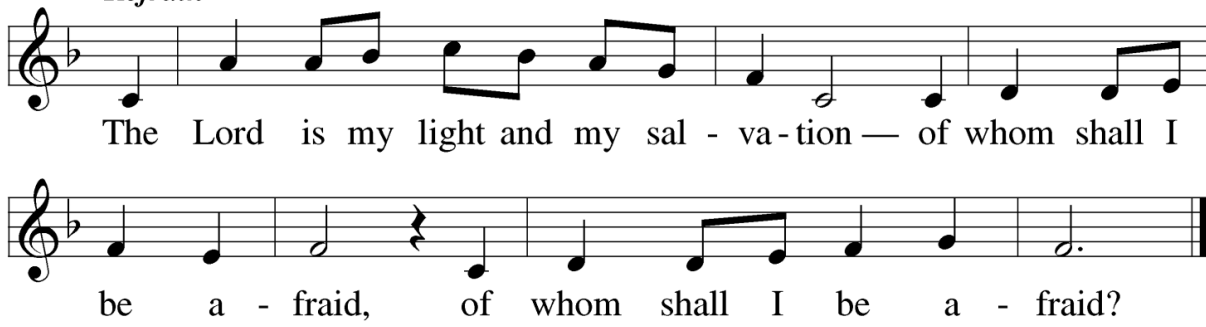
C:  Amen

### FIRST LESSON: 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.**


### PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 27

*Refrain*



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I  
be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

*Psalm tone* \*



Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;\*  
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,\*  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,\*  
O God my Savior.

*Refrain*

Though my father and mother forsake me,\*  
the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:\*  
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;\*  
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain*



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I  
be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia! (2 Corinthians 12:9)

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
These words are written that we may believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:18-27**

**Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,<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.**

## **HYMN: # 573 “Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling”**

**♪ Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward he offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
“Here am I—send me, send me”?**

**If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the Judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.**

**If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your off’rings  
You can do what God demands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
Holding up the prophet’s hands.**

**Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly;  
Let his work your pleasure be.  
Answer quickly when he calleth,  
“Here am I—send me, send me!”**

**SERMON: Matthew 20:1-16**

**“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.”**



## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Hymn: # 379 “Amazing Grace”**

**♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

*OFFERING*

**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.**

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**HYMN # 559 "Lord of the Living Harvest"**

♪ **Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,  
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,  
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,  
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.**

**As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,  
Content to bear the burden Of weary days for you,  
To ask no other wages When you will call us home  
Than to have shared the labor  
That makes your kingdom come.**

**Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son  
And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.  
Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,  
And fill us with your blessing Both now and evermore.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWERS** for today's service are given to the glory of God by Pat and Sandy Murphy.

**LWMS FALL RALLY**, this Saturday, 9:00 a.m., will be a virtual rally with Zoom. Please email Mary Jo Barnes at [mjobarnes@netscape.net](mailto:mjobarnes@netscape.net) for links and more information.

**PRAYERS** Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's granddaughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Alice Taubman, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), and Helen Marten.



...for the kingdom of heaven is like...

