

EXTRA Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin



September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Gathering Liturgy

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW pg. 94)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG. Blest Be the Tie that Binds (ELW #656)
vv. 1 & 4

*1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.*

*4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship
reign
through all eternity.*

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: p. 140

Refrain: *This is the feast of
victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who
was slain,
whose blood set us free to be
people of God. Refrain.*

*Power, riches, wisdom and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his. Refrain.*

*Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all
creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and
might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen. Refrain.*

*For the Lamb who was slain has
begun his reign.
Alleluia. Refrain.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Almighty and eternal God,
you show perpetual loving-
kindness to us your servants.
Because we cannot rely on our
own abilities, grant us your
merciful judgment, and train us
to embody the generosity of your
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

C Amen.

Lectionary 25 Readings

Genesis Jonah 3:10—4:11

When God saw what *the people of Ninevah* did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

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

And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”

Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Psalms 145:1–8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,

and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Philippians 1:21–30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor

for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation.

And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

Jesus said to the disciples, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

“When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“When he went out again about noon and about three

o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

"They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.'

"He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

"Now when the first came, they thought they would receive

more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,



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 the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Pastor Barker's Sermon: Parable of the Workers in the Field

I wonder what your first job was? Any chance you remember how much you were getting paid per hour?

My first job was at the mall — a store called PacSun and I was making minimum wage of \$6.75. At first I was working two shifts a week, which meant I was working about 8 hours a week.

For those of you who know me well this might strike you as a strange job for me — giving fashion advice to other people and having to fold and organize clothes all day. It was not a job that fit me well and I remember feeling that the shifts could not end fast enough.

So, I was a bit surprised when I got my first check—after withholdings and other taxes it was about \$80.

We all got checks at the same time and some of my co-workers who got more shifts made significantly more money on their checks. Simple lesson learned, if I wanted more money I either needed to work more hours or get paid at a higher rate.

This fit so much of how I understood my life in other areas. At school you would get good grades for turning in homework and studying for tests, and at church you could have a long line of gold stars by your name for attendance, remembering to bring offering and Bible, and memorizing the weekly verse.

I wonder what you learned and remember from that first time you received a paycheck.

In our gospel reading we learn the Kingdom of Heaven operates in a very different way from our world.

Jesus tells us another parable about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

This time Jesus tells us that a vineyard owner is hiring workers. He hires one batch early in the morning, then another batch later in the morning, then yet another group around noon, also again at 3:00 and then one more time at around 5:00.

At the end of the day, this vineyard owner does the very unusual thing of paying each worker a full days wage—even though the last group hired barely worked at all.

I might think back to my time at PacSun—imagine that on payday my boss said, "You are all going to get paid as much as our worker who worked the most hours."

Or we might think to tests in schools—everyone is going to get an A despite the fact that some of you got everything right and some got only a few questions right.

This parable so flies in the face of our common understanding of the world one of my pastor colleagues suggested this week at text study that, "this parable is about grace, but is not about justice."

Which then makes us wonder if this parable about the heavenly kingdom is true does that mean that the heavenly kingdom is not just?

To answer that question I want us to think about three Biblical principles that challenge our own cultural understandings. And the cultural understanding these principles challenge is the idea that our worth and deserving as people is about what we produce for the world.

First, God is the one who created each one of us in God's own image. This is a much more core identity than the number of hours we labor. Our worth as people is not about our work but rather about who made us. As it relates to our parable, each person who worked in that field is equally a child of God so deserves a wage that will buy the necessities to maintain life for that day.

Second, God gives none of us what we deserve. Each one of us is a sinner who has failed to respect the wonderfulness of God's whole creation. If we got what we deserved each one of us would be cast into hell on the last day to rid God's creation of sin.

But we all know that is not how God operates. None of us get what we deserve because we actually all get more than we deserve. Jesus dying on the cross on our behalf is something we cannot earn, and the fact we are forgiven is something we cannot earn. So, again, our nature as

Christians is getting something we don't deserve, something we haven't earned. And if all of us are getting something we don't deserve on what grounds can we complain about others getting this gift as well?



Third, in the scriptures we see a focus on the fact that God is immensely interested in each person having "enough". We hear this in the Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread". This prayer is asking for the ration of food that sustains life for a day for each person in the world. It could be translated "give us this day our daily ration of bread".

Not only do we see this idea in our most famous prayer but throughout the scriptures. When God's people are in the wilderness, God provides each

person with enough manna for each day. When God's people arrive in the Promised Land, each tribe and family is allotted a farm that is enough for them to survive on. In Leviticus there is a provision that all debts are forgiven every 50 years to make sure that everyone has enough. John the Baptist proclaims that if you have two coats give one away and do likewise with food.

So we see that the Scriptures are not focused on getting what is merited or earned but rather God is concerned with each of God's children having enough.

All of this points to the fact that God is just—but it's not a justice based on merit. Rather, God's justice is based on the value of each person, the grace bestowed upon each person, and the fact that God wants each person to have enough for each day.

I'll close by saying this passage is surprising. If we are truly hearing it today we should be a little scandalized a little shocked and surprised. And this surprise should guide us as we look at others always waiting to be surprised by what God is willing to do in their lives.

Amen.

Creed, Prayers and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY. O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW #542) vv. 1 & 5

1 O living Bread from heaven,
how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows.

5 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heavenly food, while here

*my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.*

**☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYER VERSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW #752)

Lord, listen to your children praying;

Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying;

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last.

Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ, (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence (*especially...*). Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and



a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, especially:

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer from St. Anthony's)
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy's sister-in-law)
- Jean Boothe (Grace soup kitchen supervisor)
- Hank Buehrens
- Andrew Calvert
- Pat Calvert
- Alyssa and Aaron Dell
- Barb Caputo
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn Reynold's boyfriend)

• Jim & Connie, parents of Welcome Center volunteer Lynda Eirich

- Gregory Foster
 - Steve Gapko
 - Shirleen Gulick
 - Dennis Houston (Dawn's father-in-law)
 - Sydney Houston
 - David Kramer
 - David Kristopeit (Nancy's brother-in-law)
 - Dorothy Keuffer
 - Dean O'Hanlon
 - Nancy Piehl (Andrew Calvert's cousin)
 - Carolyn Reynold's children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia
 - Cynthia Schwartz (Norma's daughter)
 - Marcia Swanson
 - Joyce Swift
 - Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn's sisters)
 - Dottie Watts
 - Kristi Weiss (Rollie's daughter)
 - Curtis & Leah Zavadil (Paul Berge's nephew)
- Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING. We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW #686) v. 1

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.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING. (ELW p. 144)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (ELW #733) vv. 1 & 3

1 *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain: *Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

3 *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

Refrain.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: On Our Way Rejoicing (ELW #537)

1 *On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.*

*Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.*

Christ without, our safety;

Christ within, our joy;

who, if we be faithful,

can our hope destroy?

Refrain: *On our way rejoicing;*

as we forward move,

hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2 *Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;*

unto God the Savior

thankful hearts we bring;

unto God the Spirit

bow we and adore,

on our way rejoicing

now and evermore. Refrain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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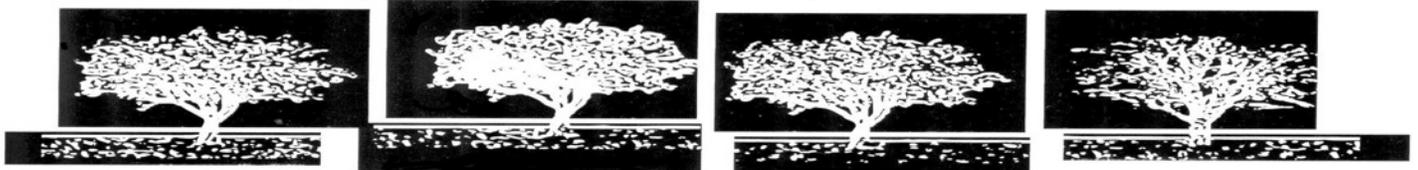
Grace Offerings: September 13, 2020

General offering	\$ 3,053.00
Via Thrivent Choice.....	\$ 257.00
Benevolence.....	\$ 270.00
Memorials: R. Weiss, non-designated.....	\$ 415.00
Altar flowers	\$ 40.00
Welcome Center/food pantry	\$ 600.00
<u>N.A. building usage</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,675.00
Grace weekly budget: \$2,943.20	

Notes: These are gross figures and do not take into account processing fees for electronic funds transfers.

Thank you to Jarlene Kriehn for sponsoring worship bulletins in September.

Please remember to mail in your offering checks to Grace if you are not worshipping here in person. You can also contribute electronically through the “Donations” link at GraceKenosha.com.



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Worship services 9:30 a.m. Sundays, livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/

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