

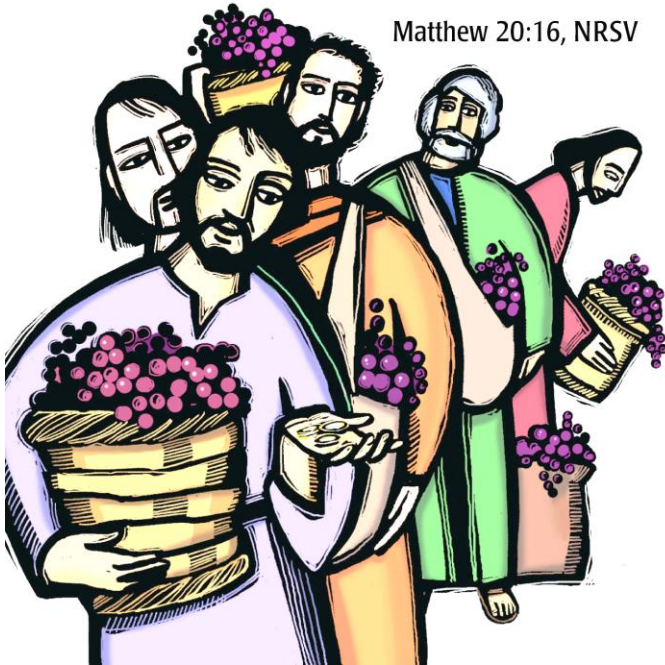


OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

So the **last**
will be **FIRST**,
and the
first
will be **LAST.**

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



WELCOME

Welcome to worship! Much of what Jesus says lies within his parables, simple stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. Today's story is about perplexing generosity. We can often get angry when people attack us or belittle our faith. We might end up thinking like Jonah, "Did Jesus really die for these people?" Yet our God is generous, and his generosity exceeds our understanding. God has freely given up his Son Jesus Christ for the sins of the whole world, even our enemies and attackers. This generosity has called us to faith and service the Lord's vineyard. May the Lord bless your worship with us today!

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Minister ~ Vicar John Wenzel
 - Organist ~ Marie Kurth
 - Ushers ~ Rick & Karen Leopold
- Next week ~ Sawyer Burish, Bob Gresens*

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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17th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

Tell Us a Story...
A Story of Perplexing Generosity

Welcome

Opening Hymn

CW 746 sts. 1, 3

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Text (sts. 1, 3): Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835–1912, refrain
Text: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

Hymn Response

CW 481 st. 1

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
To God the Father let us bring
our songs of adoration.
To him through everlasting days
be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise
whose hand sustains creation.
Singing, ringing:
holy, holy,
God is holy;
spread the story
of our God, the Lord of glory.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1698, abr.
Text: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Jonah is perplexed by God's generous forgiveness for Nineveh

¹⁰When 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.

¹But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ²He 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. ³Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

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

⁵Jonah 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. ⁶Then 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. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”

⁹But 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.”

¹⁰But 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. ¹¹And 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?”

LORD, Let Your Mercy Be on Us

Psalm 33A

Refrain

LORD, let your mer - cy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

Tone

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you / righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to / praise him.
For the word of the LORD is / right and true;
he is faithful in / all he does.
By the word of the LORD the / heav’ns were made,
their starry host by the breath / of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it / came to be;
he commanded, and / it stood firm. *Refrain*

The LORD foils the plans of the / nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the / peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm for- / ever,
the purposes of his heart through all gener- / ations.
We wait in hope / for the LORD;
he is our help / and our shield.
In him our / hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his / holy name.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Richard T. Proulx Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

Romans 9:6–16

God shows mercy and grace to those he chooses

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

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

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

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

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

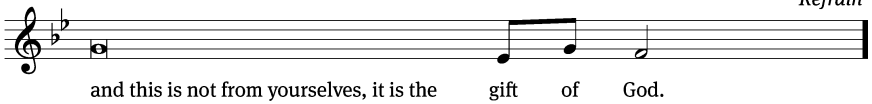
Ephesians 2:8



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He 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. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶About 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. ¹⁰So when those came who were hired first,

they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹When 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?’ ¹⁴Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵Don’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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

CW 602

- 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)

Ref **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!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

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)

Ref **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!

Text: Thomas O. Chisolm, 1866–1960
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 20:1-16

God Is Not Fair

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Be seated

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and his salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in his mercy and comfort in his forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, continue to remind us of your gracious generosity which knows no bounds. Empower us to serve and to give to you, our fellow believers, and our neighbors, as you have so freely given us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, teach us to bear patiently with one another and with the sinful world. Remind us that you want all mankind to be saved and come to knowledge of truth, that every person is a precious soul whom Jesus died for. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Special prayers may follow.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we join together and pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

CW 568

- 1 His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.
Draped in his righteousness, I'm justified.
In Christ I live, for in my place he died. (Refrain)

**Ref I cling to Christ, and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.
My praise—my all—shall be for Christ alone.**

- 2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God's daunting law Christ mastered in my stead.
Faultless I stand with righteous works not mine,
saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life. (Refrain)
- 3 His robes for mine: God's justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!"
Sin's wage is paid, propitiation won. (Refrain)
- 4 His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though his foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though he, embraced and welcomed home! (Refrain)

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

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*Thank you for worshiping with us!
May God richly bless your week.*

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy

Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.

Pastors' Conference to Meet - This Monday and Tuesday the pastors and vicars in the Wisconsin River Valley and Chippewa River Valley Conferences will meet at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. As part of the conference Pastor Mahnke will present an overview of Leviticus.

Call Meeting on October 10 – Pastor Warnecke has returned our Call to serve as our pastor. Our next Call meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 pm.

Join Us for Mission Festival on Oct. 22

We're having a special Mission Festival worship service on Sunday, October 22nd. Pastor Michael Duncan will be our guest preacher and will also conduct our Bible Class. Pastor Duncan was a missionary to two Muslim countries and one Hindu country in south Asia.

Brunch & Bible Class - Following our Mission Festival worship service, please join us in the church fellowship room (basement level) for brunch. Then stay to learn about mission work in Bangladesh. Pastor Duncan has great stories to share!

- Please sign up in the narthex to bring an egg bake, coffee cake, sweet rolls, fresh fruit, sausage & cheese, etc. Your help is appreciated!

Missions Door Offering – Today’s door offering is for missions supported by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society: New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers, as well as home and world missions.

Lutheran Women’s Mission Society (LWMS) - The Fall Rally for our Wisconsin River Valley Circuit will be **Saturday, October 21, 2023** from 9AM - Noon at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Medford. All are welcome to attend. Breakfast snacks and registration will be from 8:00-9:00. The main speaker will be Brittany Jahns from Christian Life Resources who will be speaking about “New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers.” *If you’d like to carpool, please speak with Marie Kurth.*

Altar Guild – Are you looking for an important yet behind the scenes way of serving the Lord? Helping on the altar guild may be a good fit for you. We have a rotation of volunteers who are trained to change paraments, place flowers on the altar, and prepare communion. If you have any questions or would like to learn, speak with Audrey Jones or Marie Kurth.

Food Pantry Sunday Is Next Week – On the 2nd Sunday of the month a non-perishable food collection is taken for the food pantry at The Neighbor’s Place. If you would like to help others in need in this manner, please place your donation in the grocery cart located in the office area.

Holy Smoke BBQ Contest & Fellowship – Holy Smoke BBQ Contest is once again happening at Redeemer, Weston this Saturday, October 7th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. There will be free BBQ samples, music and games. Help your neighbor by bringing a nonperishable item for Neighbor’s Place food pantry. Everyone is welcome!

Please pick up your October newsletter today!

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
Monday		OS School Students at School Forest Pastors' Conference in Rice Lake thru Tues
Saturday	11-2 PM	Holy Smoke BBQ at Redeemer, Weston
Next Sunday 10/8	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class <i>Food Pantry Sunday</i>

Growing Together

September 24, 2023

<u>Weekly</u> \$4,887.00	<u>Vision</u> \$555.00	<u>Debt Red</u> \$390.00	<u>OS School</u> \$50.00	<u>NLHS Op</u> \$250.00	<u>Bldg Maint</u> \$150.00
<u>Chr Aid & Relief</u> \$300.00	<u>Plate</u> \$20.00	<u>Elephant Ear Stand</u> \$2,700.00	<u>Publications</u> \$8.00	<u>Magic Paper</u> \$18.20	

Anticipated Weekly Offerings: \$4,077

Attendance: Sunday, September 24 – 66

Explore Forward in Christ October 2023 Articles

- Discover what Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Lther's pastor and organizer of the Reformation, can teach us today
- Meet Marianb Newmanm a Navajo shepherdess who has been guided and blessed by her Good Shepherd
- Find out what bananas have to do with witnessing, Then learn how you can use human evangelism to share your faith in your community.
- What are the building blocks of a strong kparent/child relationship?
- How do you confidently live and express your faith in an environment where absolute truth is considered offensive?



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

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