

st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 19/20, 2026

As We Gather

On the surface, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems wrong. Shouldn't the worker receive the wages he or she deserves for his or her time and labor? It offends our sense of fair play that one who worked less should receive the same as one who worked more. If you only focus on the perspective of the laborer, that might seem true, but if you focus on the generosity of the vineyard owner, you get a very different perspective. God's mercy is not the reward for our labor but a pure gift of grace given to those who deserve none of His kindness. When you begin to look at this parable from that perspective, God's abundant generosity becomes clear. The Lord does what none of us would do—forgives all our sins, no matter how great, and bestows upon us the mercy and salvation we did nothing to earn and could never deserve. How can anyone begrudge Him such generosity?

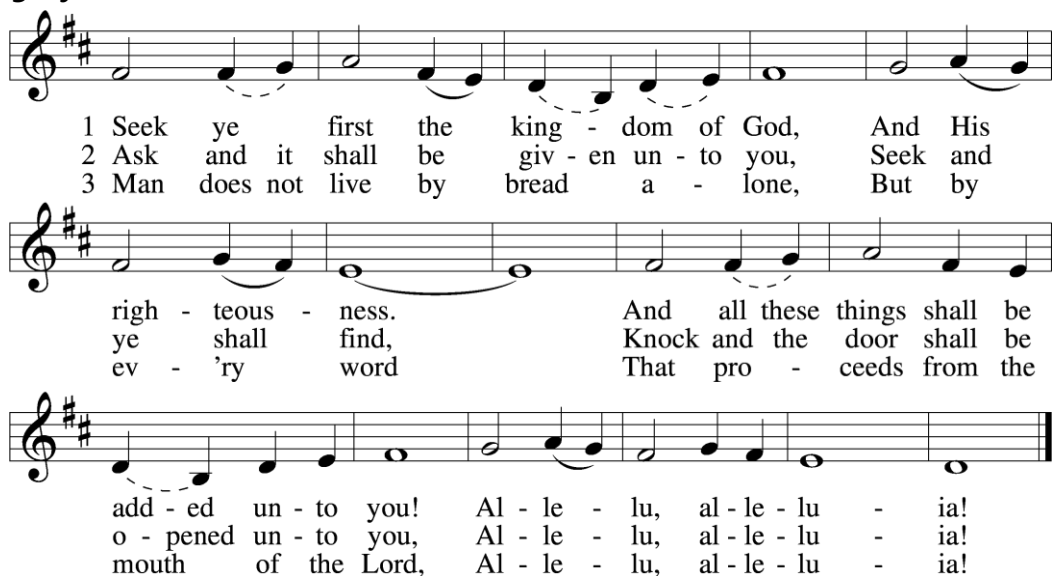
Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

LSB 712 (sts1-3)



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
 3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by

righ - teous - ness. And all these things shall be
 ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the

add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Karen Lafferty, 1948 Text and tune: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission:
 CCLI no. 264955

Baptism of Kylie Grace Calow (10:30am)

Daughter of Kyler and Lindsey Calow,

Grandparents are Mike and Anita Parkinson, and Dale and Dee Calow.

Great Grandparents are Pat Fuchs and Barb Harbach

Sponsor: Jeff and Amy Jones



Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Almighty God,

C **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.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent. The Lord keep you in His grace and favor and bring 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 Christ 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.

C **Amen.**

P He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

Epistle

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted 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 go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain,

and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

8:00 & 10:30- Choir

“Jesus Is My Lord”

by Don Besig

Please Stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

20 “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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ

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 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.**

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB 783 (sts 1-4)



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"DO vs. DONE"

(Matthew 20:1-16)

- 1) "What does it mean to become a _____?"
- 2) The mind and heart of the _____ (vs) the mind and heart of the _____ owner.
- 3) "How do you spell relief?"

Responsive Hymn**"Take My Life and Let It Be"****LSB 783 (sts 5-6)**

5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no long - er mine;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea - sure store;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
Take my-self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)**Three Year Old Blessing****8:00- James Isenberger****10:30- Lydia Caswell****Briggs Drake****Jaxson Rothschadl****8:00 and 10:30- Blast Teacher Blessing****Prayer of the Church**

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.
- P** O Lord, You have planted Your church like a vineyard in this world. Give us grace that we bring forth the fruits of Your mercy in our lives and so give honor to Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, You made all things and order them by Your Word and Your will. Bless our president and the members of Congress, our governor and

legislature, all civil servants, and all justices and magistrates that their labors may honor You and serve us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You created man for woman and woman for man, gave them the gift of marriage, and blessed them with children. Sustain all husbands and wives, all parents and children, the single, and those whose desire for marriage and children has not been realized. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, deliver the sick from their illnesses, the troubled from their afflictions, and the dying from their fear. Give grace to heal according to Your will, and comfort to those who mourn, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, teach us generosity that we may supply the hungry and those in need from the gifts You have supplied to us. Bless all those who protect and defend us: police, firefighters, those who serve the medical arts, and relief workers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, help us that we may be well-prepared to receive the Sacrament of Christ's flesh and blood and to keep in holy lives what we have tasted. Grant that what we here receive be fulfilled in the eternal feast to come, when, reunited with the saints who have gone before, we enter with joy into the eternal day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**



Service of the Sacrament



Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–2*

Communion Statement of Love

We rejoice in this celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus indeed comes to us in a very intimate manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in with and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, "*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*"²⁹ *For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). It is out of love and care for every baptized individual that comes to the Lord's Supper that we ask those who are not instructed in the faith and/or doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper.

Distribution Hymn:**"Search Me, O God"****Verse 1**

Search me, O God, and know
my heart today;
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts,
I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
cleans me from ev'ry sin and set
me free.

Verse 2

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing
me from sin;
fulfill Thy Word and make me
pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I
burned with shame;
grant my desire to magnify

Thy name.

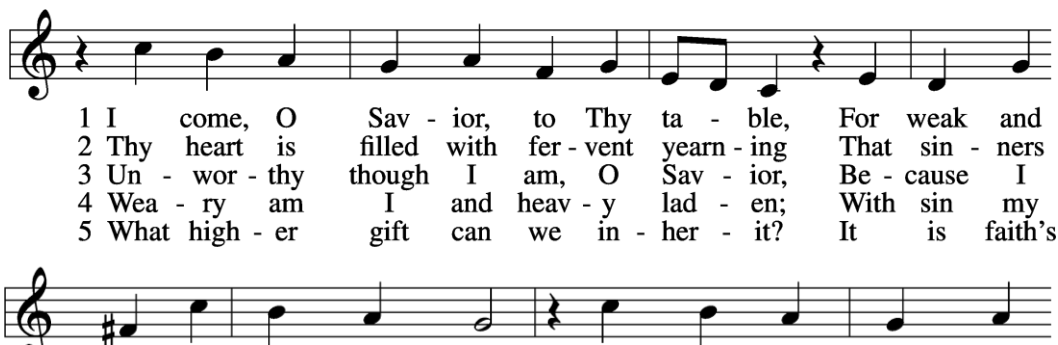
Verse 3

Lord, take my life, and make it
wholly Thine;
fill my poor heart with Thy great love
divine.
Take all my will, my passion, self,
and pride;
I now surrender, Lord— in me abide.

Verse 4

O Holy Spirit, revival comes from Thee;
send a revival— start the work in me.
Thy Word declares Thou will supply
our need;
for blessings now, O Lord, I humbly
plead.

Text and Tune: Public Domain

Distribution Hymn:**"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"****LSB 618 (sts 1-5)**

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001315 Tune: Public domain

Closing Hymn

“Make Me a Servant”

Chorus

Make me a servant humble and meek
 Lord let me lift up those who are weak
 And may the prayer of my heart always be
 Make me a servant make me a servant
 Make me a servant today

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Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Silent Prayer: Loving Father, thank you for not measuring us by what we DO but by what Jesus has DONE. WHAT JOY...WHAT A RELIEF...WHAT FREEDOM! Amen."

Announcements

Postlude

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Chris Winter, Ministry Assistant.....815-291-6994
Lisa Lobdell, Organist 815-275-5165
Ruth Maedge, Choir Director 815-238-1595
Sharon Thompson, Accompanist 815-493-8347
Joy Shaw, Handbell Director 573-987-8421

STAY CONNECTED

www.stjohnslena.org

Facebook: St Johns Lena

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am

Sunday at 9:15 am – Education Hour

Sunday at 10:30 am

**Acoustic – 4th Sunday 10:30 service*

BIBLE EDUCATION

Sunday at 9:15 am

Adults w/ the Pastor – Luke



Pre-School/Kindergarten
Jr. High & High School
WDS and **BLAST**
Women In the Word

1st and 3rd Monday's at 3:00 & 6:00 pm

Bible Journaling – Mark

Tuesday's 10:00 am

Stitching Blessings – Mark

Wednesday at 9:30 am

Women's Bible Study – Luke

Friday at 6:30 am

Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Fellowship H.

***See Church Calendar & Newsletter for
additional studies and gatherings!***

COMMUNITY

Church Van: If you live in Lena and would like a ride to the 10:30 am service, please call the church office.

My Friends Closet: Visit our thrift store for heavenly deals! 511 W Lena St, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-4527](tel:8153694527)

Adult Day Care: Visit our "Friendship Center" to care for your loved ones. 311 N Lake Rd, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-2690](tel:8153692690)

REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES: (A card of encouragement is always welcomed)

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY TIM (Together In Mission)

†Supporting: Danelle Putnam Schumann & husband Carlos Schumann, Apartada 1356, Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Danelle.Putnam@lcms.org lcms.org/international lcms.org/putnam

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY ADOPT A STUDENT: Mr. Derek Arrington Campus Post Office Box, 801 Seminary Pl., St. Louis, MO 63105-3196; arringtond@csf.edu

ST. JOHN'S TIM (Together in Mission):

Rev. Carl & Chenhsi Hanson with Emma, Andrea, and Lydia serving in Seoul South Korea as Pastor at International Lutheran Church. 148 Hannam-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea 04417

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Mr. Tristan Jones (and wife Carolyn and son Micah) 801 Seminary Pl. Clayton, MO 63105-3196, jonest@csf.edu. (Vicarage) Saint Stephens Lutheran Church, 2304 Springs Rd. N.E., Hickory, NC 28601-3066

MY FRIEND'S CLOSET THRIFT STORE TIM (Together in Mission)

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Deaconess Tirzah Kray, serving in Latin America & Caribbean, Tirzah.krey@lcms.org, facebook.com/groups/TirzahTales, c/o The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O.Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Zach & Christy Yoder serving in Nigeria with Wycliffe Bible translators.

Zach_yoder@wycliffe.org, www.wycliffe.org/partner/yoder; christy-yoder@sil.org

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK – September 19/20

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Jeff Jones/ Craig Kroeger/ Kory Gerbick	Brett Richardson/ Rob Cobine/ Tim Hamilton
GREETERS	Roger Schamberger	Eric/ Lindsay Bader	Steve/ Kathie Levan
USHERS	Bruce Baumgartner	Rich Jogerst	Brandon Falk
ACOLYTES	Usher	Blaine Drake/ Liesl Jones	Kenze Hahne/ Carter Falk
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Jaren Jones/ Leeann Brinkmeier	Korbin Winter/ Sam Cobine
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK –September 26/27

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox	Mike Rothschadl	Kevin Keltner
GREETERS	Cliff/ Karen Klenke	Dennis Potter	Steve/ Julie Lotz
USHERS	Jon Werkheiser	Heath Harbach	Derek Tessendorf
ACOLYTES	Usher	Kenzie Hahne	Tate Tessendorf
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Barb Harbach/ Evan Zier	Carsten Wade/ Sam Cobine
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal