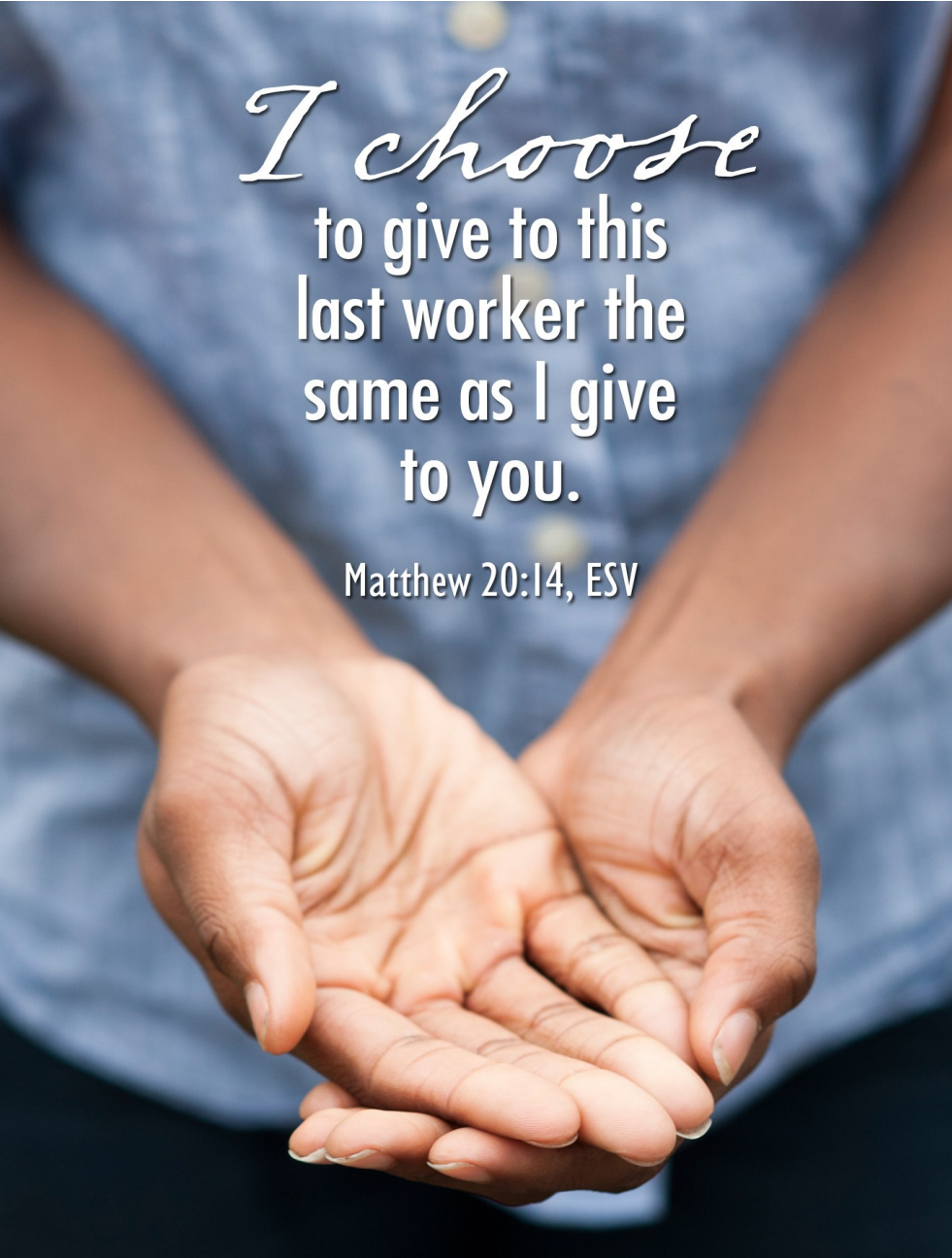


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



I choose
to give to this
last worker the
same as I give
to you.

Matthew 20:14, ESV

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020
Sermon Title *"Cursed Comparing and Grandiose Giving"*
Matthew 20:1-16



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:45 a.m. Sunday, September 20, 2020

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Elders: Tim Draube & Randy Johnson **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Ushers: Jack Smith Team

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf, Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump,
Rev. Paul Flo, Charles Cortwright

Reader: Frank Tenuta

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER We find it hard not to notice others—what they have, what they earn, and how they live. What is worse, however, is that we constantly compare ourselves to others. Most of the time we figure that we are on the short end of the stick. But when it comes to the kingdom of God, there is no room for quick comparisons. Instead, we stand in awe of God's rich mercy and generous grace. This is far more than we deserve. If we insist upon comparing our situation to others and complaining, God's response is clear. Take what you have been given and leave. But if we let go of the comparisons, we find ourselves blessed beyond measure with His forgiveness, life, and salvation.

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Psalm 27:9*

P: Hide not Your face from me.

C: Turn not Your servant away in anger,

P: O You who have been my help.

C: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Opening Song “Be The Center”

Jesus, be the center. Be my source be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the center. Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Chorus: Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.

Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision. Be my path, be my guide, Jesus. (chorus)

Jesus, be the center. Be my source by my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the center. Be my hope, be my song, Jesus. (chorus)

Jesus be the center, be my source, be my light, Jesus,

Be my source, be my light, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

(Words & music by Michael Frye, 1999 Vineyard Songs, used by permission, CCLI License 11440148 and 20162974)

Nicene Creed

First Lesson Isaiah 55:6–9 (Seek the Lord while He may be found.)

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

(Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.)

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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.

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

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1–16 (The last will be first and the first will be last.)

¹“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. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And 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.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

The Song of Instruction “Your Name”

As morning dawns and evening fades, You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart and glorify Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Jesus, in Your name we pray, come, and fill our hearts today.
Lord, give us strength to live for You and glorify Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.
Your name let the nations sing it louder,
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

Your name is a strong and mighty tower; Your name is a shelter like no other.
Your name, let the nations sing it louder,
'Cause nothing has the power to save but Your name.

But Your name. But Your name.

(Words & music by Glen Packlam and Paul Baloche, Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Word “Cursed Comparing and Grandiose Giving”

Matthew 20:1-16

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

To our guest: We are glad that you are with us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please pass your **Welcome Card** to an usher or acolyte.

Proverbs 11:25– Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Offertory “Breathe”

This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe Your holy presence
living in me.

This is my daily bread This is my daily bread Your very word spoken to me
And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ----, I'm lost without you, (repeat)

And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ---, I'm lost without you
I'm lost without you I'm lost without you, I'm lost without you, I'm lost
without you

This is the air I breathe This is the air I breathe

(1996 by Marie Barnett and Vineyard Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Karen Black, Dorene Christiansen, Coleen Kissinger, Felicia Williams, Tim Everton, Cole Wagner, Angela Bengford, Jessica Bliven, Brittney Kroeger, Chaney Neff, Karsen Gomez, Bishop Hilden, and Austin Jager. Lord in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.

P: Is this your sincere confession?

C: I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.

P: As you believe, so let it be. 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: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

INVITATIONAL SONG ("Praise Team):

He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed

Take your place beside the Savior now

Sit down and be set free

Come to the table

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION “He Knows My Name”

I have a Maker, he formed my heart.
Before even time began, life was in his hand.

He knows my name, He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls, and hears me when I call.

I have a Father, He calls me His own.
He'll never leave me, no matter where I go.

He knows my name, He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls, and hears me when I call.
He knows my name, He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls, and hears me when I call.

He hears me when I call.

(Words & music by Tommy Walker, 1996 Doulos Publishing, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

“Revelation Song”

1. Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain
Holy, Holy, is He
Sing a new song, to him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat
(Chorus)
Holy, Holy, Holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of Kings
You are my everything
And I will adore You...
2. Clothed in rainbows, of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be
To You the only wise King (Chorus)
3. Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name
Jesus your name is power
Breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery... (Chorus)

(Song writer: Jennie Lee Riddle, Gateway Create Publishing ©Copyright
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11440148 and 20162974.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song "Shout to the North"

Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.

Chorus: Shout to the north and the south,
Sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome
King of love. (Chorus 2x)

We've been through fire, we've been through rain,
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.
We've fallen deeper in love with You,
You've burned the truth on our lips. (Chorus)

Rise up, church, with broken wings, fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high.
By His Grace again we'll fly. (Chorus 2x)

Lord of heaven and earth.

He is Lord of heaven and earth.

He is Lord of heaven and earth.

(Words & Music by Martin Smith, 1995 Curious? Music UK, used by permission, CCLI License #11440148 and 20162974)

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

Worship Services:	Traditional (6 p.m. Saturday & 8:15 a.m. Sunday) Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m. Sunday)
Sunday School:	9:30 a.m.
Youth & Adult Bible Classes	9:30 a.m.
Pastor:	Rev. Kenneth Hsu
Christian Day School:	Preschool through Grade 5 (before and after school care)
Principal:	Mrs. Alyce Strong Davis
School Financial Consultant:	Mr. Lon Stuhr
Other Ministries for Children:	Vacation Bible School Sunday School
Other Ministries for Youth:	Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Juniors in Fellowship Confirmation Program
Other Ministries for Adults:	Young at Heart Club (Dinners on 3rd Sunday noon) Friends of Christ Fellowship Club Women's League, Women's Circles, Sewing Group Prayer Chain, Soup Kitchen Volunteer Church Library, Lamplighters Evangelism

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Cursed Comparing and Grandiose Giving

Date: 09/20/2020

Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Verses for Meditation

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?
Or do you begrudge my generosity?
Matthew 20:15

Points to Ponder

1. Did the workers of the vineyard have legitimate complaints?
2. What is fair?
3. Kingdom of Heaven V.S. Kingdom of This World
4. Do we like to compare and complain, too?
5. How much has God given us?