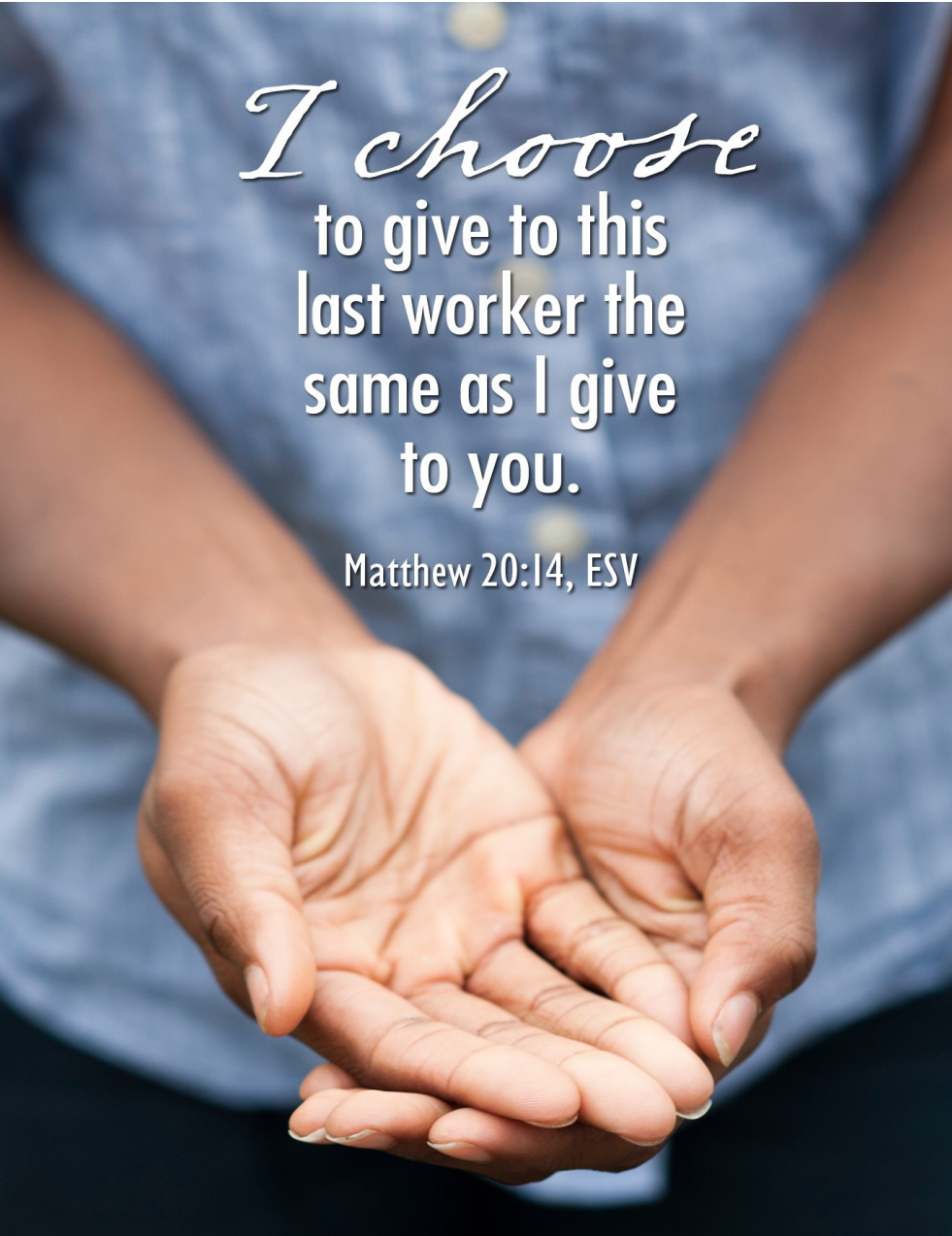


St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.siouxcitystpauls.org



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

Matthew 20:14, ESV

6 p.m. Sat., Sept. 19, & 8:15 a.m. Sun., 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

(6 p.m. Sat., Sept. 19 & 8:15 a.m. Sun. Sept. 20, 2020)

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Jack Smith

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

Elders: 6 p.m. Sat., Randy Johnson 8:15 a.m. Sun. Ron Cason & Robert Greene

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat.; Marlis Hilden 8:15 a.m. Sun. Charlotte Grothaus

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.

DIVINE SERVICE FOUR

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

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation "With the Lord Begin Your Task"
(stand as you are able for the last verse)

LSB 869

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

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!

Confession and Absolution

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: 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.

Service of the Word

The Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy" (*Sung*)

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P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria in Excelsis Glory to God in the Highest (*Sung*)

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**To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: O blessed Lord, since we cannot count on anything we have done, give us grace to count on Christ and His redeeming work upon the cross. As we delight in His grace, so give us humility to receive Your generosity without offense and trust in Your mercy alone for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

Psalm 39:9, 19, alt.

C: Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

The Epistle Lesson 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia and Verse (*Sung*)

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Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day

“Salvation unto Us Has Come”

LSB 555

Sermon

“Cursed Comparing and Grandiose Giving”

Matthew 20:1-16

The Prayer of the Church

P: Lord God, You have promised to hear the prayers of Your people, and so we come to You this day offering You petitions and supplications for all manner and needs of people.

You have invited us to seek Your face and to call upon You while You are near. Lord, grant to us such confidence in Your grace and favor that we seek Your wisdom, walk in Your ways, and delight in Your gift of salvation with thanksgiving in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have placed in our ears Your Word and in our hearts Your Spirit, O Lord. Grant that we learn to follow Your Word and live holy, upright, and honorable lives that reflect Your goodness and show forth the fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are our light and our salvation and in You we rest our fears. Lord, grant Your aid, comfort, and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be especially with the sick for whom we pray this day, especially Jack Smith and Barry Hueschen. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your power is greater than all and Your mercy is without limit. Lord, look with compassion upon our world of violence and terror. Bless those who govern here and everywhere that they protect the weak, promote the cause of virtue, administer justice to the criminal, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You have shown us generosity greater than we deserve, O Lord. Silence our complaints when we would question Your mercy, and teach us to be satisfied by Your grace in all that we need for this mortal life and find contentment in God's promise of the life to come. Teach us to rejoice over every sinner who repents and for everyone who comes to You in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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.

P: All these and whatsoever other things we need, we ask You to grant us in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Into Your hands, O gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

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: Thank you for joining 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 Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 783 1-4

(Stand as you are able)

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Page 208

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sung*)

Page 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Lord's Prayer

Words of our Lord

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei Lamb of God (*Sung*)

Page 210

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Reading of the Communion Announcement Card

(Please be seated)

The Distribution Hymns

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face” LSB 631 1-4

“The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place” LSB 838

(Stand as you are able)

The Post Communion Collect

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benedicamus & Benediction

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P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

C: **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn “Lord of All Hopefulness”

LSB 738

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + +

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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?