

Grace Lutheran Church, Ph. #920-682-7377 gracelutheran@tm.net
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18th Sunday After Pentecost - October 4 & 5, 2020

“We Belong to Him Who is So Gracious!”

What is our God like? Our worship opportunities in October will give us stories from the Lord Jesus that can emphasize specific characteristics of the one true God. Today's lessons cause the worshiper to ask: Is God fair? No, he's not. He doesn't give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace. Our God is inconceivably gracious.

We live-stream our 8:00am service.

Go to our website www.gracelutheran-church.com and click on the “[Live Stream Video](#)” link. Livestreaming will begin about 5 minutes prior to the start of worship. This recording will also be archived for future viewing.

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (page 26 in hymnal)

HYMN #753: “Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us” (Supplement) ALL sing stanzas 1-3

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** ALL speak

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy; hear our prayer, O Lord. C: **Lord have mercy.** (sing)

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ. C: **Christ, have mercy.** (sing)

P: For the well being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise; hear our prayer, O Lord. C: **Lord, have mercy.** (sing)

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: **Amen** (sing)

O LORD, OUR LORD—ALL sing

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray. Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** ALL sing

GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:6-9 (EHV)

How gracious is God? His call to repentance doesn't extend only to backsliding Christians and certainly not to perceived upright citizens. His invitation to call on him is not reserved for sensible, suburban folk with 2.1 children and a white picket fence. The LORD calls the ungodly and wicked men who worship lust and self. The LORD calls the hardened sinner whose conscience has not blushed over evil words or deeds for a long time. Look at what he promises to anyone who repents, no matter how far they have fallen: mercy and pardon—the care of God and the forgiveness of God. They won't get what they deserve—that is mercy. They get what they don't deserve—that is the free pardon of grace. God's plan to save sinners by grace soars above all that we could conceive or imagine.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. ALL speak

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:18-27

We read portions of Philippians in October. Paul's confident words remind us that because of God's inconceivable grace, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Life lived under such grace is life filled with joy and guided by God's wisdom.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16

What is our God like? Jesus teaches us with a story, but we struggle with the lesson. The parable offends our finely honed sense of what's fair and what's not. In the reality of his gospel salvation, God is not fair; rather, he is inconceivably gracious. One-hour workers receive the same as those who bore the heat of the day. This parable carries both warning and promise for us—a warning that all comparisons based on merit or work do not belong in God's kingdom; a promise that our relationship with God is based solely on grace which he pours out on us so abundantly. Rather than compare ourselves to other workers, we keep our eyes where they belong, fixed on our gracious God. He doesn't give us what we deserve!

P: This is the gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ! ALL sing

SERMON—based on Gospel Lesson Matthew 20:1-16

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions. *(Silent prayer)*

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. ALL sing

HYMN #753: "Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us" (Supplement) ALL sing stanzas 4-6



This week's topics for Adult Bible Study "Christians in Conflict" Series:

- Sunday, Oct 4 (9:20am): "The Most Excellent Way".
- Tuesday, Oct 6 (6:30pm) & Wed, Oct 7 (1:30pm) : "Blessed are the Peacemakers"
- Sunday, Oct 11 (9:20am): "Blessed are the Peacemakers"