

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

Matthew 20:16

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

401 16th Ave. N.

Bangor, WI 54614

Web site: www.stpaulsbangor.com

Vacancy Pastor Steven Olson Cell: 706-339-5886 - Parsonage: 486-2754

Email: pastorstevenolson@gmail.com

Principal: Mr. Richard Bakken, Jr.

School: 486-2641

Email: dbakken@stpaulsbangor.com

Luther High School – 783-5435

Pentecost 18

October 11, 2020

Welcome!

What is our God like? Jesus tells us a parable which begs the question: “Is God fair?” No, he is not. He doesn’t give us what we deserve and that is called “mercy.” In fact, he gives us what we don’t deserve and that is called “grace.” Our God is inconceivably gracious. May the Word of God enrich our lives as we receive God’s blessings today!

Prayers for worship:

Before worship:

Dear Father in heaven, open my ears to your holy Word today and send the Holy Spirit through your Word to enlighten, enrich and equip my faith to live my life as your forgiven child for the sake of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

After worship:

Dear Father in heaven, help me throughout the week to put your Word into practice. Not thinking too highly of myself, may I enjoy peace knowing that you have showered your grace and mercy on me and given me a place in your family while allowing me to live my life each day to your glory and praise. Amen.

Order of Service

WELCOME

M: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

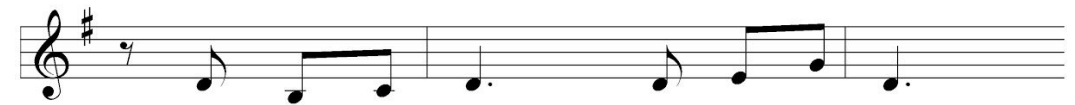
C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN # 756
"Sight"

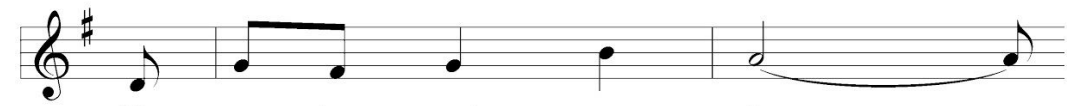
"We Walk By Faith and Not By

FAITH

756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



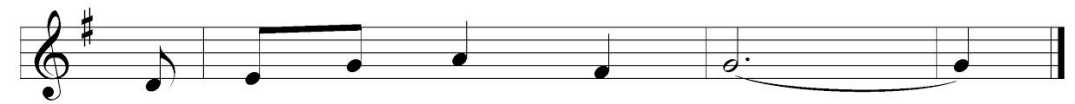
1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch his hands and side
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief,
4 For you, O res - sur - rec - ted Lord,
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,



No gra - cious words we hear
Nor fol - low where he trod,
And may our faith a - bound
Are found in means di - vine:
In realms of clear - er light,



From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But in his prom - ise we re - joice
To call on you when you are near
Be - neath the wa - ter and the Word,
We may be - hold you as you are



But we be - lieve him near.
And cry, "My Lord and God!"
And seek where you are found.
Be - neath the bread and wine.
With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Martyr Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
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THE CONFESSION OF SINS

M: *We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.*

C: *Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.*

M: *God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.*

C: *Amen.*

M: *In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: *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.

The Word

The Old Testament Reading: Jonah 4:5-11

Jonah wanted Nineveh destroyed; in his mind it would only be fair. Nineveh was a wicked, bloodthirsty city that everyone feared.

Jonah had not wanted to preach the Word of God there because he didn't want them to listen and repent. He didn't want God to have compassion on them. God is so much more than Jonah imagined! He drove his point home with a vine that Jonah neither made nor

tended to. Yet, Jonah was so emotionally attached to it! God says, "Now, think of me, Jonah! These people, I made them! I supported them. I wanted them to be mine forever. So great is my grace!"

5 Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city. 6 Then the Lord God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. 7 But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live." 9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!" 10 So the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. 11 So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?"

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 27

(CW, page 75)

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 9:6b-16

Is God fair? Is God just? Neither – he is inconceivably gracious, as our eternal election proves. Paul answers the question by pointing us back to God's speech to Moses. The Israelites had worshiped the golden calf, and Moses made intercession for them.

Moses asked the LORD to show him his ways and his glory (vs 13-14). God responded by declaring his inconceivable grace: he would show mercy and grace to those he chose, regardless of any merit or worth. Though these people had abandoned him, he would be merciful and gracious to them. So also with us, the children of the faith of Abraham: God's eternal election of us to salvation had nothing to do with merit or worth or works, but only stems from his inconceivable grace and mercy.

6 This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, 7 and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be

traced through Isaac.” **8** This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. **9** For this is what the promise said: “I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son.”

10 Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. **11** Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God’s purpose in election might continue— **12** not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” **13** Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

14 What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not!
15 For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

16 So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

The Verse of the Day: Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you; for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. (2 Cor 12:9a)

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

20 “Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. **2** After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. **3** He also went out about the third hour^[a] and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. **4** To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. **5** Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. **6** When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found

others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

7 “They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ **8** When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

9 “When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. **10** When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. **11** After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: **12** ‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? **14** Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. **15** Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ **16** In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

Hymn of the Day: # 390

“Salvation unto Us Has Come”

The Sermon: Matthew 20:1-16

The Apostle’s 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.

The Offering

The General Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Hymn: # 401

“Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ”

The Closing Prayer

[M] O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

The Blessing:

[M] 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.

The Closing Hymn # 559

“Lord of the Living Harvest”

Announcements

This Week:

Today: 10/11

Bible Study - 9:15-9:40 - Ephesians

Sunday School 9:10-9:40 at School

Luther High Music Dept. Fruit Sale (Church Basement)

Tuesday: 10/13

7 pm - Bible Class - Joel

Wed: 10/14

9 am - Bible Class - Joel

3:30 pm - Public School Confirmation

Thursday: 10/15

Scrip Orders Due

Friday: 10/16

Provide own transportation for school children

Sunday: 10/18

Worship w/communion at both services

Luther High Music Dept. Fruit Sale (Church Basement)

Parsonage Open House after both services and during the

Voter's meeting

1:00 pm - Quarterly Voter's/Pastoral Call Meeting

Luther High Music Dept. Fruit Sale: A Luther student will be taking orders in the church basement between services every Sunday through 11/15/20 to raise funds for the Music Department or you may contact Joshua Stratman at 608-486-4735 to place your order.

Parsonage Open House:

The church council would like to make some improvements to the parsonage while we await the arrival of our next pastor. We would appreciate you taking the time to walk through the parsonage sometime next Sunday, jot down notes about things you feel are important upgrades for us to make, and share your thoughts with Mr. Brad Gollnick, Congregational President.

Notes from Church Council meeting of October 7:

- Gym wall mats will be redone and the colors will match
- Gym floors will be restripped so that lines for basketball may be added
- \$67,930.50 is the next installment payment to Olympic Builders for the School building project to be paid out of the Bushek bequest and the School Fund.
- St. Paul's Lutheran School will participate in the free hot lunch program provided by the State of Wisconsin due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A parsonage open house on Sunday, October 18 to receive ideas on updates/repairs to be made on the house.
- 2021 Budget was approved and will be presented to the Voters at the Quarterly meeting on October 18th.

Offering Summary (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

Weekly Budget: \$9,948.43 Budget to Date: \$387,988.77

Received 10/4/20: \$13,919.00 Rec'd to Date: \$343,739.38

Attendance - 10/4/2020

8:00 am: 62 10:00 am: 74 Total: 136