

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020 (Real Church Virtual Service)



## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

### Verse 1

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

### Verse 2

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

### Verse 3

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

### Verse 4

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

### Verse 5

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

## First Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.

For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, '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.' <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon – Pastor Paul**

### **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude**

## 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.

## Final Blessing / Dismissal

P: May Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – bless you all, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Your Grace Finds Me

### Verse 1

It's there in the newborn cry, there in the light of ev'ry sunrise, there in the shadows of this life:

Your great grace.

It's there on the mountain top, there in the ev'ryday and the mundane, there in the sorrow and the dancing:

Your great grace, O such grace.

### Chorus 1

From the creation to the cross, there from the cross into eternity Your grace finds me, yes, Your grace finds me.

### Verse 2

It's there on a wedding day, there in the weeping by the graveside, there in the very breath we breathe:

Your great grace.

The same for the rich and poor, the same for the saint and for the sinner, enough for this whole wide world:

Your great grace, O such grace.

### Chorus 2

From the creation to the cross, there from the cross into eternity Your grace finds me, yes, Your grace finds me.

There, in the darkest night of the soul, there in the sweetest songs of victory, Your grace finds me, yes, Your grace finds me.

### Bridge

Your great grace, O such grace. Your great grace, O such grace.

The same for the rich and poor, the same for the saint and for the sinner, enough for this whole wide world:

Your great grace, O such grace. Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh.

### Chorus 3

So I'm breathing in Your grace and breathing out Your praise. I'm breathing in Your grace. Forever I'll be: breathing in Your grace and breathing out Your praise. I'm breathing in Your grace. Forever I'll be: breathing in Your grace and breathing out Your praise. I'm breathing in Your grace. Forever I'll be: breathing in Your grace and breathing out Your praise. I'm breathing in Your grace. Forever I'll be: breathing in Your grace and breathing out Your praise. I'm breathing in Your grace. Forever God, forever God!

### Ending

It's the same for the saint and the sinner. It's enough for this whole wide world! Yes, Your grace finds me, yes Your grace finds me.

***Please see bulletin on next page***



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## *September 20, 2020*

**"2.0" is HERE!** We are excited to announce that a new experience has been created for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into this Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

**The SEPTEMBER issue of the STAR is here!** The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) They are continuing to complete the lion's share of the work after it is printed, collated, and stapled, but now the cost of postage is being taken from the membership budget. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office or tell the Sunday greeter or hospitality team so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With the recent rescinding of Gov. Whitmer's full stay-at-home order and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different "phases" of safety for re-opening gathering venues, **we continue this week with our "Greenspace Worship" on the West Lawn. You are encouraged to B.Y.O.C. (Bring your own chair). Safety is our primary concern.**

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser" at BLC is now full** with several paper publications, including the September STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

**Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived.** They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

**Altar flowers have returned to our worship services.** If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) – the cost is \$40 per week.

**Today's altar flowers are donated by:** *Barb and Dale Wentzloff, in memory of Helen Pickard*

**BLC Book Club News** The BLC book club will be reading the book of a local author for its Sept 22 ZOOM meeting at 5:30. Cari Noga wrote *The Orphan Daughter* and the setting is Old Mission Peninsula. The local author, Cari Noga, will be joining us on ZOOM for our meeting! Anyone can join in the discussion by sending their email to Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net)

**Enjoying God's gift of creation** Some members of the Monroe Small group have decided they really want to take advantage of the great outdoors in the fall before it gets too cold, and invites anyone to come along and join us. Cheryl Wegener is leading this mini-adventure on Sunday Sept. 27. Those in town should gather at the Church parking lot at 11:30 and bring a chair and a lunch. We will be heading to the Seven Bridges Area in the Rapid City/Kalkaska area (For those of you who get the Record Eagle, there was a picture from Seven Bridges on page 1, section B of Thursday 9/10.). Cheryl suggests this plan: The walk there takes about 5 minutes, and we can spend up to 1/2 hour there enjoying the scenery. From there, we can head to Freedom Park. Everyone should bring a lawn chair and their own lunch which we'll eat at Freedom Park while getting caught up on what everyone has been doing. Then we'll walk the trail at Freedom Park which takes about a half hour. If the weather is bad we will attempt to reschedule in October.

**Share your name please!** It can be hard to think of someone's name when you do not see the entire face because of a mask and when someone is wearing sunglasses. If you have an old name tag at home, please consider wearing it. If not, please stop at the greeter's table when you come for the greenspace service and you or the greeter can make you a tag. Even though we are mainly at a distance of 6 feet, it is still nice to hear you own name especially when you come forward for communion.

**Keep "Hope Spreading":** Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or *Sharon* at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**Pecans are coming! Pecans are coming!** The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, will sell the popular Schermer pecans again this Fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we will take orders for *Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans*. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. We will be ordering at the end of September for delivery at the end of October. So that we know how much to order, please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com)) by the end of September.

**The Annual Chili Cook Off** has been postponed to a later date. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the spring!)

**Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

**"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is now more of a book study using the Walt Wangerin book *Paul: A Novel*, on the famous apostle plus whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet...which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about.