SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
+ Service of Holy Communion +
9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – A part of us expects justice from God. We think that fairness ought to reign—that each of us should get what we deserve. But this is a dead end. God does not give us what we deserve but acts with mercy and grace beyond belief. He is scandalously generous and lavish with us—giving us what we do not deserve and have not earned. We are tempted to ask God for equity and what we deserve, but God is determined to give us so much more in Christ. Only in faith can we learn to let God be God, to honor His generosity with the only response He desires: faith and thanksgiving. Today we pray the Lord to break through to our hearts and minds with His abundant grace and to rejoice that He is more than fair—He is merciful!

PRESERVICE MUSIC “What God Ordains is Always Good” by Kevin Hildebrand

OPENING HYMN

With the Lord Begin Your Task

1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
2 Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
3 With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
4 If your task be thus begun With the Savior’s blessing,
5 Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You committed;

For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe – ly then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.

With the Lord Begin Your Task

1 With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
2 Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
3 With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
4 If your task be thus begun With the Savior’s blessing,
5 Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You committed;

For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
Safe – ly then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES
P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
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 & FORGIVENESS
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. C Amen.

INTROIT
P I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the LORD.
P What shall I render to the LORD
C for all his benefits to me?
P I will lift up the cup of salvation
C and call on the name of the LORD.
P Precious in the sight of the LORD
C is the death of his saints.

Psalm 27:9
Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17
O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY
The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray.
All: 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.

OLD TESTAMENT
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE
All: Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY
Salvation Unto Us Has Come

1 Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and
2 It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had
3 From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway un-
4 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die de-
5 fa vor; Good works cannot avert our doom, They
given That sinners could themselves redeem And
ceasing; The task was useless and in vain, Our
spairing, Christ came and has God's an-ger stilled, Our
help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's
hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the

Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our
Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's

world a - lone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - ru - p - tion.
ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

6. Since Christ has full atonement made 810. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

SERMON “NEVER EMPTY HANDED” Matthew 20:1-16
I. The Master in Jesus’ parable seems to treat his workers unfairly.
II. God actually treats us unfairly—He gives us way more than we ever deserve.

UNICENE CREED
I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We delight in dwelling in Your house, O Lord. Bless Your Church and those who minister to us in Your name. Guide them to preach faithfully the whole counsel of Your Word so that we be steadfast in faith in the face of temptation, threat, and trial. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 ...]. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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, hear our prayer.

You have given us a place at Your Son’s Table and grace to receive His very body and blood. Lord, grant that we come with repentance and faith to receive all that Christ has accomplished for our salvation in this blessed communion with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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. Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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 Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION
LORD’S PRAYER
P Lord, lead us into Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C 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.

PAX DOMINI
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION
SOLO SELECTION
“The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation”

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING
P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
C for His steadfast love endures forever!
P Heavenly Father, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up envy and strife, and teach us to examine our own hearts that we be free from malice and ill will. Help us by Your grace so that we live lives worthy of the Gospel and live at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

BENEDICTION
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN
Lord of All Hopefulness

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,

Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Lord of All Hopefulness" by Wilbur Held

From Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Roger C. Wohletz, Pastor 720-283-8128 / email: pastorroger@christlutherandenver.org
Renee Ortiz, ECC Director / Preschool Teacher 303-828-6735 / email: renee@christlutherandenver.org
Beth Buss, Music Director 970-778-5696 / email: bethbuss4@gmail.com
Rob Hatton, Congregation Chairman 303-906-9395 / email: roberthatton1@goolemail.com

WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:
Altar Guild ........................................................................................................ Karen Batt & Marcella Marshall
Counter .................................................................................................................. Carl Kurth
Communion Assistant ............................................................................................ Bob Sees
Organist / Music Director .................................................................................... Beth Buss
Special Music ........................................................................................................... Trio: Carolyn Harder, Kristen Hatton, Viola Wilson
Sanitation CEO (Clean Every Object) .................................................................. Al Axford
Service Web Recorder ............................................................................................ Robert Showalter
Service Live Streaming ........................................................................................... Stuart Ruwet
Usher ......................................................................................................................... Phil Vandre

THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 am

September 27: "Room at the Table"; Rev. Dr. Jason Broge; Guest Speaker
Open doors and loud tables—places where God does His quiet work of changing lives, one
dinner invitation at a time. God made room as His table for us so that we can make room at
our tables for others. New Series: "Households of Faith." (1 Peter 4)