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**Pastor Ricky Adams**



**September 20, 2020**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**"The Offensive Nature of Grace"**

***Whoever you are...***  
***Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...***  
***YOU are WELCOME here!***

# **We Gather In The Presence Of God**

## **Welcome and Introduction of Today's Theme**

**Pastor:** 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. The Lord is gracious to all. He is compassionate and good. We are His handiwork, and we praise the Lord! His love shows no prejudice or favoritism. He is generous and kind.

## **Opening Prayer**

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **Opening Song - Lord of All Hopefulness**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953; Text © Oxford University Press 1931.



## **We Are Renewed In God's Grace**

**Pastor:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. –  
Silence is kept for reflection. - Faithful God,

**All:** **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Pastor:** God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**People:** Amen.

## **God Speaks Through His Word**

### **Epistle 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.

**Pastor:** <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. This is God's Word

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading - 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.

Pastor: [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." This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Message Song – Take My Life, That I May Be**

Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

## **Message**

"The Offensive Nature Of Grace"  
Philippians 1:21-30



# **We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

**Pastor:** 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. - silent prayer - 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,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** 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,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** 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,  
**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

**People: hear our prayer.**

#### **Additional Prayers**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Benediction**

**Pastor:** We leave this place knowing that the Gospel is not reserved for a certain class of people; the Lord is generous in His love. We are blessed by the love of our Savior and Lord! Share the Gospel freely with others and be bold in your faith. Go in the peace and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... Stay well – stay healthy-practice social distancing, Wear your mask and most importantly know that you are loved by God, always. ... May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look on you with His favor and grant you His everlasting peace.

**People:** **Amen**

## **Closing Song - Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

**Information About Peace Lutheran Church** - If you desire to know more about Peace Lutheran Church such as teachings; affiliations, membership or other questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Adams.

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**Worship Services** – There are three ways to worship at Peace Lutheran Church during this time of Covid.

**No live stream this week. Live stream will return September 27.**

**Facebook users**

**[www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill)**

**(available beginning 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning)**

**Non-Facebook Users**

**[www.plcmarin.org](http://www.plcmarin.org)**

Just go to the front page, scroll to the bottom, and click on the video.  
It is that easy!

**Christ's Peace To Those Celebrating Birthdays This week**

**Thursday - Jeanine Hillebrandt**

**Christ's Peace To Those Celebrating Birthdays This week**

**Thursday - Sebastian & Dahlia Stein**

**Friday - Keith & Jackie Stoneking**

**Communion** – No communion this week. Communion will return September 27

**Carport Fellowship** – Sunday, September 27, 10:15 a.m.

# **Weekly Devotional Helps**

## **September 20 – September 26, 2020**

### **Morning Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### **Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### **Prayer For The Sick**

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

## **Scripture Readings Through The Week**

### **Monday – September 21**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Nehemiah 5:1-16: 6:1-9, 15-16  
1 Timothy 4:1-16

### **Tuesday – September 22**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Nehemiah 7:1-4; 8:1-18  
1 Timothy 5:1-16

### **Wednesday – September 23**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Nehemiah 9:1-21  
1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

### **Thursday – September 24**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Nehemiah 9:22-38  
1 Timothy 6:3-21

**Friday – September 25**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Malachi 1:1-14  
Matthew 3:1-17

**Saturday – September 26**

Psalm 25:1-9  
Malachi 2:1-3:5  
Matthew 4:1-11

**Scripture Readings For Next Sunday****Proper 21**

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**  
**Psalm 25:1-9**  
**Philippians 2:1-13**  
**Matthew 21:23-32**

**Commemorations**

**September 20 - Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist:** Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.