

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, September 20, 2020 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 149:1-4a, adapted)

Leader: God said, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people." We, too, are members of God's family by adoption and by baptism. We are members of the family above all other families - the family of Christ which risks and worships, reaches out, and welcomes in.

People: We are male or female, young or old, rich or poor, single or married, strong or weak, all here together as one family of the church, gathered to praise Jesus, our spiritual head, and to worship God, who unites us in praise, in prayer, and in love.

Confession

Life-giving God, we confess we often do not give you the thanks we owe you for the wonderful things you have done in our lives,

for the ways in which you have shown us your love and your faithfulness, for the evidences of your presence and power, for the amazing gift of grace in our baptism. We confess that when we do not remember our baptism, our wills weaken, our faith falters, and our hearts fail us in time of trouble. In forgetting whose we are, and who we are as children of the light, we become vulnerable to sinking under the weight of the pressures in this earthly life. Forgive us, O God

Words of Assurance

By our confession and our baptism into the light of Christ, relationship with God is restored. By knowing ourselves forgiven, and by forgiving one another, communion and fellowship is renewed. Praise the God of grace!

Hymn: *Amazing Grace, vss 1 & 2*
 (#547)

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20.1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ 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.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner ¹² 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.’ ¹³ 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? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Message

Pastor Don Francois

“On Grapes and Grace”

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *Amazing Grace, vs 3 & 5*

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

Postlude