



“GOD IS NOT FAIR!”

September 20, 2020
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Life at Grace Announcements

Opening Voluntary

“Antiphon”

Marcel Dupré

Call to Worship *(responsive)*

Psalm 145

We extol you our God and King and bless your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

We will speak the praise of the Lord and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Let us worship the Lord our God!

Opening Prayer

Hymn 41

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

LYONS

Verse 1

O worship the King all glorious above
And gratefully sing His power and His love
Our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

Verse 2

O tell of His might O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

Verse 3

The earth with its store of wonders untold
Almighty Thy power hath founded of old
Established it fast by a changeless decree
And round it hath cast like a mantle the sea

Verse 4

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite
It breathes in the air it shines in the light
It streams from the hills it descends to the plain
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain

Verse 5

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail
In Thee do we trust nor find Thee to fail
Thy mercies how tender how firm to the end
Our Maker Defender Redeemer and Friend

Prayer of Confession and Silent Confession

Gracious God, we can't help but compare ourselves to others and our eyes often trick us into believing that what others possess is more, better, or proof of greater love from you. Forgive us when we believe what we have is earned rather than a gift from you. Forgive us for when we are angry because you brought joy to others whom we think greater sinners than we. Forgive us when we have measured our worth rather than rejoiced in your mercy. Help us learn that your love for each one of us is beyond measure, that you give each one of your children what we need and much of what we want, that none of us earns the love shown to us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we ask again for your grace and mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 145:8

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Hallelujah! Amen!

Response (Hymn 581)

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

4th Grade Bible Presentation

Tabitha Goldsmith, Sarah Kincaid, Isaac Headstream

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. 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, 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but

of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. 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?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 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.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.’ 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? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Message

"God Is Not Fair!"

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, whose love we know in the beauty of his world, in daily bread, in the kindness of human hearts, and most clearly in Jesus of Nazareth. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, whose touch of grace makes our eyes to see, our ears to hear, strengthens us to do all things in him, and whose death and resurrection delivers us from death to life. We believe in the Holy Spirit in whose power there is peace, in whose presence there is joy, and in whose promise we dare to be more.

Praise

“Goodness Of God”

by Ed Cash and Jenn Johnson

Verse 1

I love You Lord

Oh Your mercy never fails me

All my days

I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful

All my life You have been so so good

With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2
I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Pastoral Prayer, Quilt Prayers, and the Lord's Prayer

Time of Commitment

Tithes & Offerings

"How He Loves"

by John Mark McMillan

Verse 1
He is jealous for me loves like a hurricane
I am a tree bending beneath
The weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden I am unaware of
These afflictions eclipsed by glory
I realize just how beautiful You are
And how great Your affections are for me

Pre-Chorus
Oh how He loves us so
Oh how He loves us
How He loves us so
(REPEAT)

Chorus
(Yeah) He loves us
Oh how He loves us
Oh how He loves us
Oh how He loves
(REPEAT)

Verse 2

We are His portion and He is our prize
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes
If grace is an ocean we're all sinking
So Heaven meets earth
Like a sloppy wet (unforeseen) kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets
When I think about the way that

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

This is the Lord's Table. Jesus Christ generously and freely offers himself to us. All who trust in Him are invited to partake of this feast which he has prepared.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Almighty God, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, martyrs, and with all the faithful who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow... As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Prayer

Loving God, you graciously feed us. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom, by the death and resurrection of your Son and the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 716

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

BEACH SPRING

Verse 1

God whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder Jesus' wisdom
Costly cross grave's shattered door
Gifted by You we turn to You
Offering up ourselves in praise
Thankful song shall rise forever
Gracious donor of our days

Verse 2

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ Your Son
All at peace in health and freedom
Races joined the church made one
Now direct our daily labor
Lest we strive for self alone
Born with talents make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne

Verse 3

Treasure too You have entrusted
Gain through powers Your grace conferred
Ours to use for home and kindred
And to spread the gospel word
Open wide our hands in sharing
As we heed Christ's ageless call
Healing teaching and reclaiming
Serving You by loving all

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Praeludium in F"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Participating in Worship

Rev. Dr. Tracey Davenport
Rev. Cara Ellis
Michael King
Trenton Hull
Andrew Packard
Roy Davis
Mark Kinney

Pastor, Head of Staff
Children's Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Worship Leader
Organist
A/V
A/V

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Julie & Bryan Haworth in celebration of their 30th anniversary.

One of the quilts in the Sanctuary is for Angela Hurwich in memory of her mother, Raejean Avenson. Please say a prayer for Angela and her family.

The second quilt in the Sanctuary is for Carol Roberts, in memory of her mother, Grace member, Ilo Brown. Please say a prayer for Carol and her family.