

18th Sunday after Pentecost

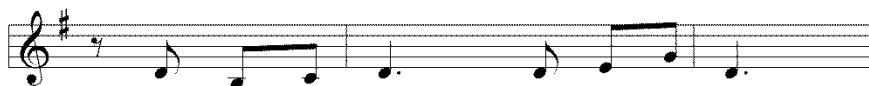
September 28 & October 1, 2023

The Season After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

The Sunday What is our God like? Over the next four Sundays, the Church hears Jesus tell four parables which reveal characteristics of our God. Today's lessons cause the worshiper to ask: Is God fair? No, he's not. He doesn't give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace. *Our God is incomprehensibly gracious.*

Opening Hymn

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight CWS 756



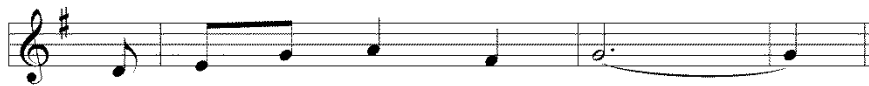
1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch his hands and side,
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief,
4 For you, O res - sur - rec - ted Lord,
5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,



No gra - cious words we hear
Nor fol - low where he trod,
And may our faith a - bound
Are found in means di - vine:
In realms of clear - er light,



From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But in his prom - ise we re - jice
To call on you when you are near
Be - neath the wa - ter and the Word,
We may be - hold you as you are



But we be - lieve him near.
And cry, "My Lord and God!"
And seek where you are found.
Be - neath the bread and wine.
With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
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Stand



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel
to help people

Grow

in the Gospel
and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank
God that you have
joined us at worship
today.

Restrooms are
located in the
basement. Hearing
loop headphones and
Large Print Hymnals
are available from an
usher.

If your children
need to leave worship,
please take them to
the basement. A TV
broadcasts the service
in the basement.

Today we gather
together in the
presence of God. He is
present among us in a
special way through
his Word and
Sacrament. We
acknowledge our sin
and rejoice in the
good news of
forgiveness through
the life and death of
Christ. This is the
focus of our worship.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good."



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson:

Jonah 4:5-11

Jonah wanted Nineveh destroyed; in his mind it would only be fair. Jonah knew what that would mean: God would have compassion on them and forgive them (Jonah 4:4). But God is far more gracious than Jonah could have even imagined. The LORD taught his prophet with a vine and made a striking point.

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant^[a] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”
(NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 27 CW

Refrain



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I



be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”^[Malachi 1:2,3] ¹³ Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”^[Genesis 25:23]

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”^[Exodus 33:19]

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 20.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 20:1-16

What is our God like? Jesus teaches us with a story, but we struggle with the lesson. The parable offends our finely honed sense of what’s fair. God makes no distinction by merit or work. In reality, God is not fair; rather, he is inconceivably gracious.

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Salvation unto Us Has Come CW 390



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
 2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
 3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
 4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die
 5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
 can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
 has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
 de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,
 sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
 For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
 And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
 Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for
 And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
 lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by his grace—
All glory to his merit!
O Triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed your saving love;
Your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Ellich Cristlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

Sermon

Romans 9:6b-16

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

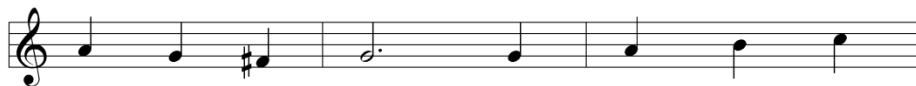
Be Seated

Hymn

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ Hymn 401:1-2,5



1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -
2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal
5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all
my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,
can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.
con - tain The balm that makes me whole.
eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

Refrain



To whom but you, who can a - lone For



sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.

Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.