

*So the last will be first,
and the first last.*

-Matthew 20:16



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“THE ECONOMY OF GOD’S GENEROSITY”

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 IN THE SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
"THE ECONOMY OF GOD'S GENEROSITY"

REV. JAMES L. MAYLAND
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AS WE GATHER On the surface, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems wrong. Shouldn't the worker receive the wages he or she deserves for his or her time and labor? It offends our sense of fair play that one who worked less should receive the same as one who worked more. If you only focus on the perspective of the laborer, that might seem true, but if you focus on the generosity of the vineyard owner, you get a very different perspective. God's mercy is not the reward for our labor but a pure gift of grace given to those who deserve none of His kindness. When you begin to look at this parable from that perspective, God's abundant generosity becomes clear. The Lord does what none of us would do—forgives all our sins, no matter how great, and bestows upon us the mercy and salvation we did nothing to earn and could never deserve. How can anyone begrudge Him such generosity?

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" *Behnke & Callahan*
"Before the Throne of God Above" *Weber*

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 186

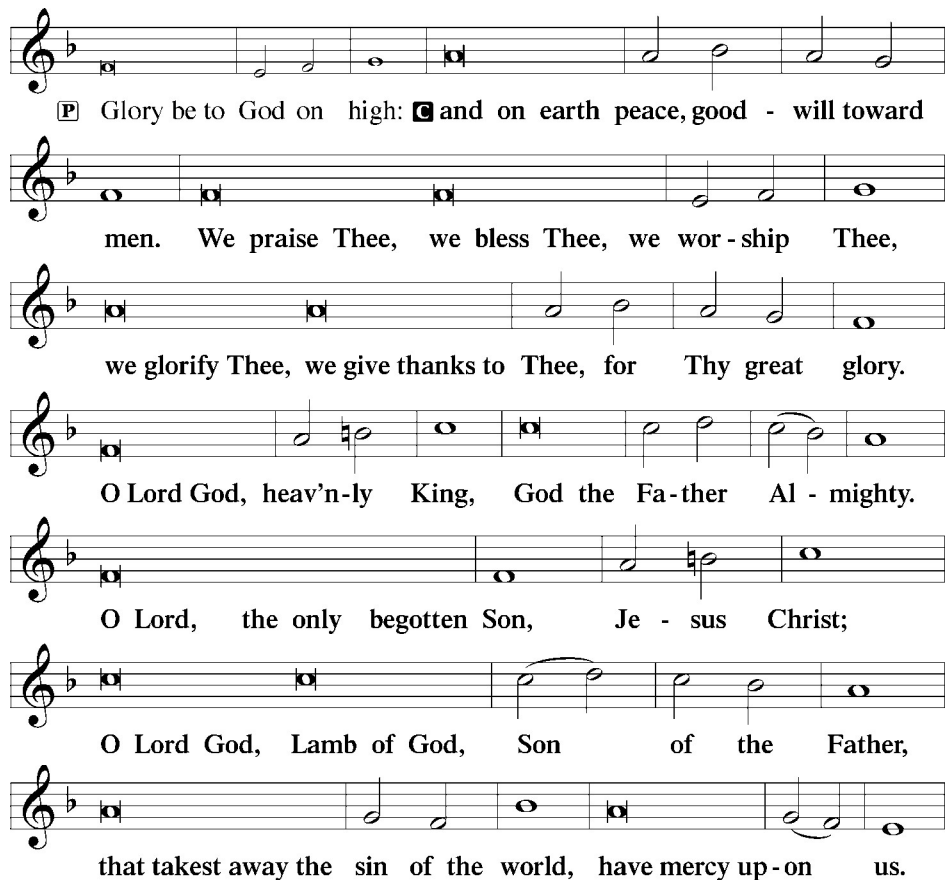


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Gloria in Excelsis"

LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:6-9

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

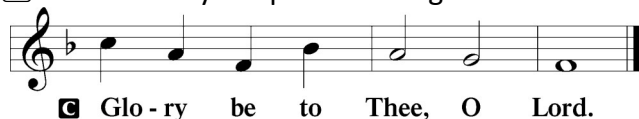
ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF THE DAY "Before the Throne of God Above" *LSB 574, sts.1-2,4,6*

1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
 2 My name is grav - en on His hands, My name is
 4 Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, My sin - ful
 6 At one with Him, I can - not die, My soul is

strong, a per - fect plea: A great High Priest, whose name is
 writ - ten on His heart; I know that while in heav'n He
 soul is count - ed free; For God, the just, is sat - is -
 pur - chased by His blood; My life is hid with Christ on

Love, Who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
 stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 fied To look on Him and par - don me.
 high, With Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Text: Charitie L. de Chenez, 1841–1923 Tune: Vernon Griffiths, 1894–1985 Text: Public domain Tune: © 1971 Faber Music Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005874

SERMON "THE ECONOMY OF GOD'S GENEROSITY" *Rev. James L. Mayland*

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Cherwien

OFFERTORY

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(After each petition, the following is said...)*

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

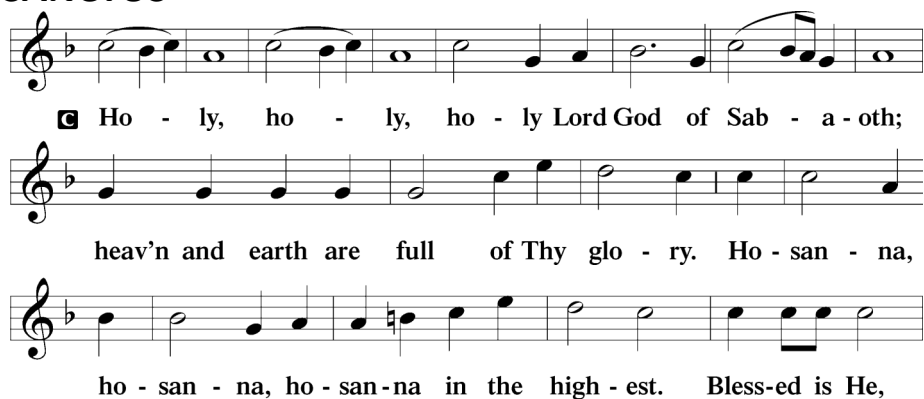
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up unto the Lord.
P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.
P It is truly meet, 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

LSB 195





bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - - - men.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord’s Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior’s body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Lord of All Hopefulness” *LSB 738*
 “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” *LSB 619*

DISMISSAL AND THANKSGIVING

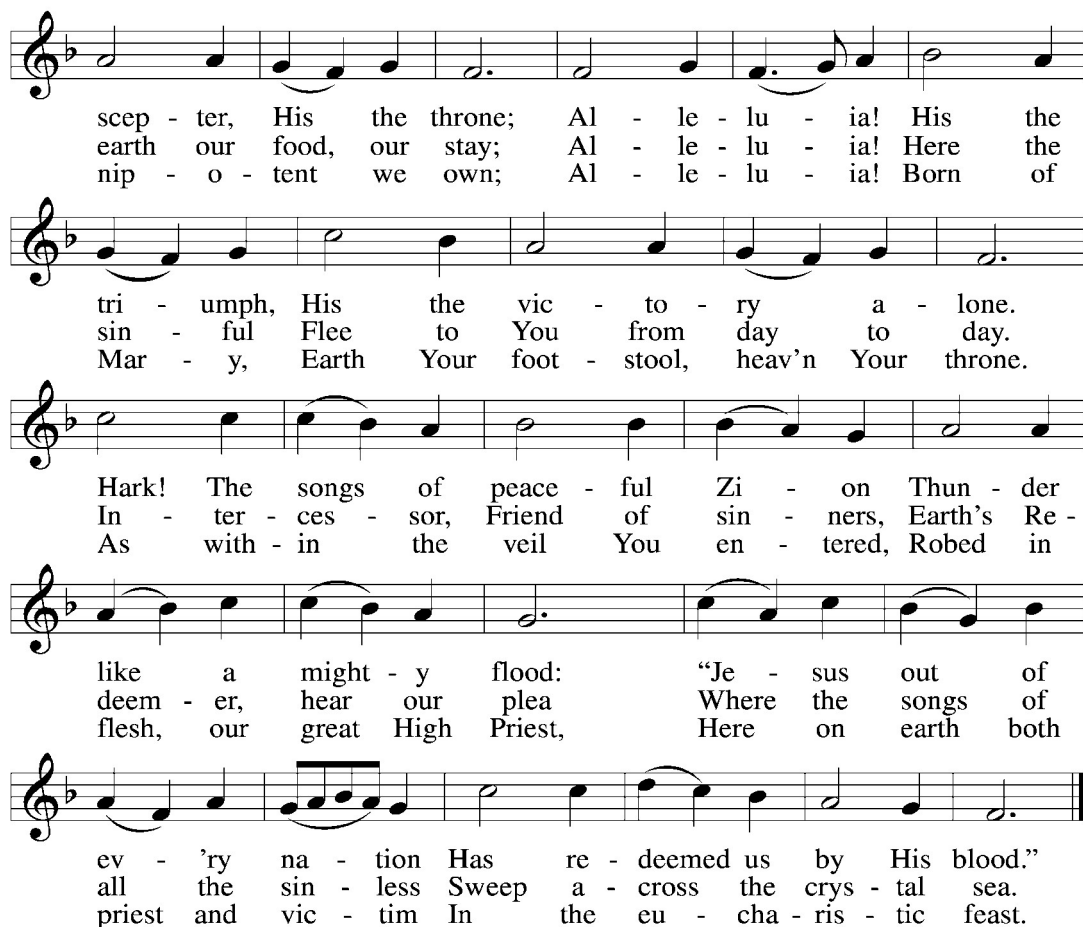
- A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**
- A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

- A** Bless we the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.
- C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”* *LSB 821, sts.1,3-4*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87 Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Passacaglia"

Young

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. Paul D. Sundbom, Associate Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Irene Beethe*

ELDERS: 7:30am—*Bob Zimmerman, Tim Rock*; 9am—*Dan Schwantes, Todd Hauer*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

TRADITIONAL/BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—
7:30am & 9am Sunday
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—
5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

GUIDING STATEMENT:

As an enduring family of disciples, we teach, love and connect through multi-generational education and service.



TEACH—LOVE—CONNECT—SERVE—GROW

Teach the Truth—Love like Jesus

Connect with Compassion

Serve with Purpose—Lifelong Growth

**Automated
Giving
Options**



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