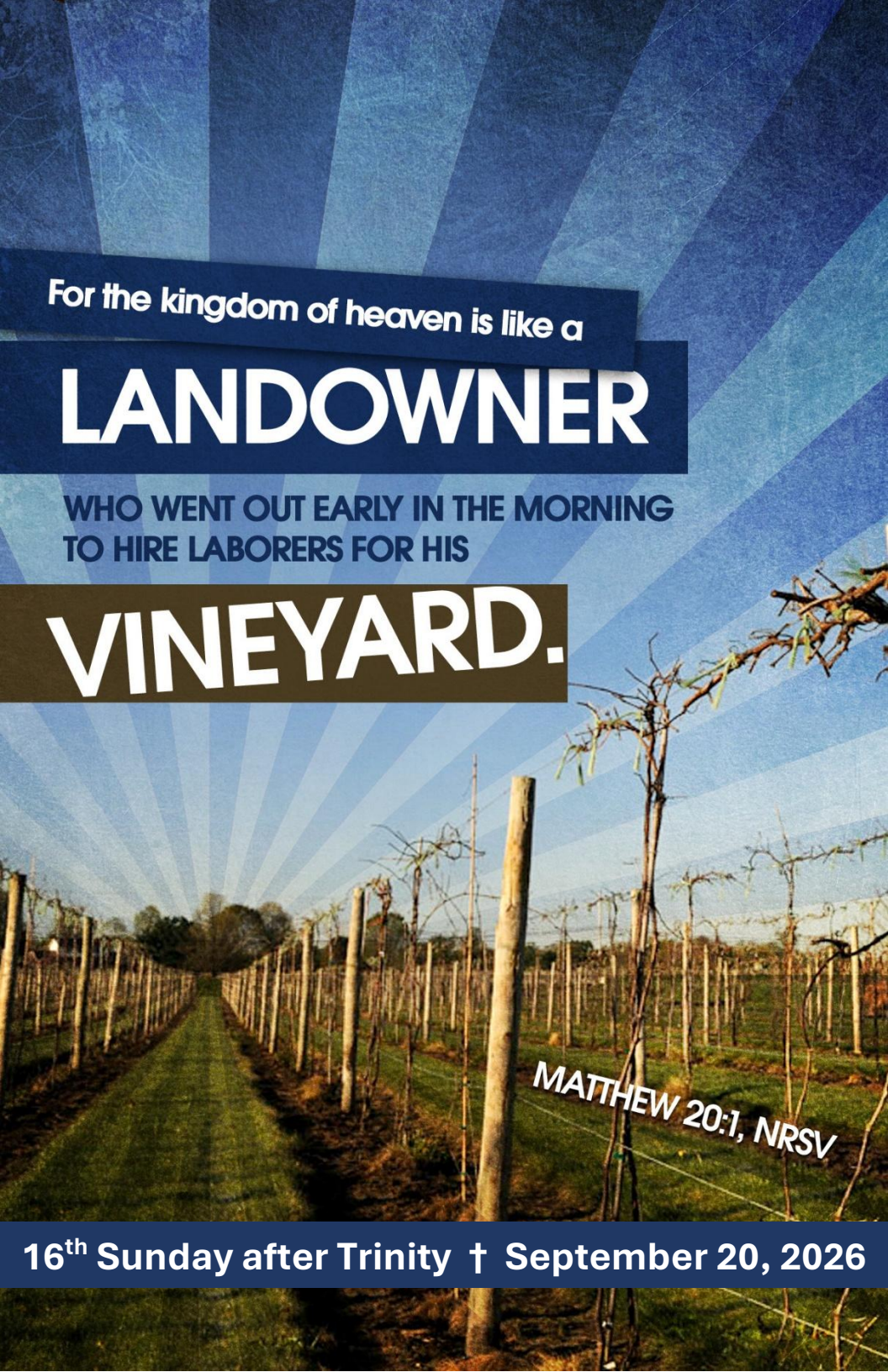




For the kingdom of heaven is like a

LANDOWNER

WHO WENT OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING
TO HIRE LABORERS FOR HIS

VINEYARD.

MATTHEW 20:1, NRSV

16th Sunday after Trinity † September 20, 2026

THE OPENING

Today's service follows the Order of Morning Service from the Lutheran Hymnal p.5ff.

Greeting and Prayer

Hymn LSB 580 *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

♪ **C Amen!**

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

♪ **C Amen.**

The Introit: *Psalm 116:12-13,15-17*

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

C What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

P I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

C O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

Gloria Patri *Latin for "Glory to the Father"*

♪ **C** *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, forevermore. Amen.*

The Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our life.*

♪ **C** *Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

The Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory in the Highest." A hymn glorifying and praising God.*

♪ **C** *Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Salutation *("Greeting")*

P The Lord be with you.

♪ **C** *And with thy spirit.*

The Collect for the Day

The main thoughts for the day are collected in this prayer.

P Let us pray... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪ **C** *Amen.*

THE SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 55:6-9*

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let 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. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

P Here ends the Old Testament reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

The Gradual: *Psalms 130:1-4*

The Gradual is a "bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

C O Lord, hear my voice!

P Let your ears be attentive

C To the voice of my pleas for mercy!

P If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

C O Lord, who could stand? Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P But with you there is forgiveness,

C That you may be feared. Hallelujah!

♪ **C** Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P The New Testament reading comes from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Church in Philippi, chapter 1, verses 18-27.

♪ **C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

New Testament Reading: *Philippians 1:18-27*

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as 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. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only 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.

[P] Here ends the New Testament reading.

♪ **[C] Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

**[C] 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.**

The Reception of New Member Dawn Flesner

*Philippians 2:2 Complete my joy by being of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.*

Hymn LSB 761 *Rock of Ages Cleft for Me*

THE SERMON

Sermon Reading: *Matthew 20:1-16*

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And 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.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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 a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

THEME: GRACE RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

What situation prompted Jesus to tell this parable?

What is so strange about the master's hiring practices?

Did the "early-hires" have good reason to be upset with the master? Why or why not?

Why is it a good thing that we don't have to fill out spiritual resumes?

In what way did Jesus submit a perfect resume in our place?

What is the free "reward" of faith in Christ? (regardless of when that faith comes)

What warning does this parable give for "heat-of-the-day" Christians?

THE RESPONSE

The Offertory

Having heard God's Word, we ask Him to spiritually heal us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **☒ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Hymn LSB 573 *Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee*

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. If you wish to give your offering electronically, please scan the QR code on the announcement page.

Prayer of the Church † The Lord's Prayer

We boldly approach God's throne of grace, that we may find grace to help in time of need.

☒ 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.

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

☐ 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.

♪ **☒ Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Closing Hymn LSB 829:3 *Christ the Eternal Lord*

WELCOME!

We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.

- † **Restrooms** are located to the right after you exit down the main aisle.
- † **Parent's Room** is located in the northeast corner of the sanctuary.
- † **Amplifying headsets** are available. Please ask an usher.
- † **If you are visiting with us today**, please sign the guest book in the entryway and we invite you to join us again.
- † **If you are looking for a church home**, ask Pastor about a free one-on-one Bible study for new people. Where & when? Your convenience.

Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Pastor Tom Naumann † C: 313-419-8543 † tomnaumann.pastor@gmail.com

Principal Janelle Hein † C: 763-438-4877 † janellehein@gmail.com



We are dedicated to the proclamation of the gospel of Christ crucified for sinners.



We are a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Livestream @GraceLutheranChurchFridleyMN  **YouTube**

Sermon Podcast @GodsWordFromGraceFridley  **Spotify**  **Apple Podcasts** 

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member: We welcome Dawn Flesner into our fellowship in the name of Jesus, and we give praise and glory to our LORD for His gift of this like-minded believer to our congregation! Dawn is a former member of Grace, and we are so happy to have her back into our fellowship!

Church Boards and Church Council meet today after service for their monthly meetings.

Sunday School and Bible Class resumed today from 9-9:45am. The youngest Sunday school class will begin next Sunday.

Midweek Bible Study: Beginning on September 30, we are resuming our weekly Wednesday Bible Study at 7pm. We'll be taking a deep dive into the impactful Epistle to the Galatians. Please join us!

It's A Girl! The ladies of the congregation are invited to a baby shower for Jessica Robin after church on October 25th. Jessica is registered at Target and Amazon. Please RSVP to Heidi Nelson.

Joint-Reformation Service: Faith Lutheran Church in New Ulm is hosting the annual CLC Minnesota Joint-Reformation Service on Sunday, November 1, at 4:00 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend! Following the service, all are welcomed to gather for a fellowship meal. Please bring a dessert or salad to share. If you plan to attend, please let pastor know so that we can have an estimate of how many will be present.

Nepal Disaster Relief: The CLC Board of Missions and Kinship Committee have approved a Disaster Relief Grant to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession Nepal (HCLCN) following the severe flooding on August 26th. This support will help rebuild the homes of fifteen HCLCN families and provide much needed ongoing disaster related humanitarian relief. Donations can be made to Kinship "Special Offerings (Relief Aid)" at www.lutheranmissions.org/kinship or through your local congregation. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ of HCLCN as they begin rebuilding homes and lives. And thank the Lord for the peace and comfort that only His love can provide in times such as these.

CLC Call News: Pastor Zachary Sippert of Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN, has **received** the call to Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Glenn Oster of Gift of God, Fairfax, VA, has **returned** the call to Trinity, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew, Dallas, TX, has **received** the call to Gift of God, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul's, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd, Rapid City, SD, has **received** the call to St. Paul, Austin, MN

Serving Us † Today

A day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Psalm 84:10

<i>Organist:</i> Jan Davis	<i>Church Cleaners:</i> R & H Nelson
<i>Usher Team 3:</i> Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Kelley, Ryan Oman, Bob Vandever, Eli Wales, Uriah Wales	<i>Counting Team 1:</i> Dale Enns, Larry Nelson, Phil Radichel, Dave Rust

Serving Us † Next Sunday

<i>Organist:</i> Sue Nelson	<i>Church Cleaners:</i> R & H Nelson
<i>Usher Team 3:</i> Alex Baker, Kevin Baker, Dan Kelley, Ryan Oman, Bob Vandever, Eli Wales, Uriah Wales	<i>Counting Team 2:</i> Dan Degnan, Rick Nelson, Bill Rust, Bob Vandever

Upcoming † Calendar

If the Lord wills, we will do this or that. James 4:15

Today	11:15am	Boards and Council Meetings
Sun. 9/27	8:30am	Choir Practice
	9:00am	Bible Class / Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship Service
Wed. 9/30	7:00pm	Midweek Bible Study Begins
Sun. 10/11	10:00am	Mission Festival (Guest Preacher: Pastor Luke Bernthal)
	11:15am	Mission Fest Potluck Meal
M-W 10/12-10/14		Minnesota Pastoral Conference Hutchinson, MN
Wed. 10/14- Fri. 10/16		CLC Teachers Conference (No school 10/12-10/16) Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI
Sun. 10/18	11:15am	Dorcas Guild Meeting
	11:30am	Quarterly Voters Meeting
Sun. 9/1	4:00pm	Joint Reformation Service – Faith, New Ulm

In Our Prayers † Encouragement List

Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

Cindy Bruckbauer remains mostly homebound due to chronic illness. **Judy Dahlin** remains homebound due to the loss of her sight. **Cindy Degnan** remains mostly homebound due to severe, persistent seizures. **Jean Gunther** remains homebound due to chronic illness. **Dorothy Hammond** remains mostly homebound due to the loss of her sight. **Daniel and Jessica Robin** are expecting their first child in Jan 2027. **Bob Rust** is receiving treatment for cancer. **Need prayer?** Please inform Pastor and your need will be included in the next bulletin.

Our Response † to the Gospel

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Last Week Attendance: Anniversary Worship Service = 183

Weekly Offering:	Grace:	5,390	CLC:	500			
Weekly Need (est)	Grace:	5,400	CLC:	1,440			
-Under/+Over	Grace:	-10	CLC:	-940			
Year-to-date Offering	Grace:	196,059	CLC:	59,598			
Year-to-date Need	Grace:	199,800	CLC:	53,280			
Difference from Budget (+/-)	Grace:	-3741	CLC:	6318			
GLC Other:	50.00	Living Faith:	-	Tuition Aid:	275	Sanctuary:	-
SAF Endowment:	-	MDF:	-	Kinship:	1,140	EduK8:	225
ILC Student Aid:	50.00	ILC Bldg.:	300	IIF:	-	CEF:	-
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid:	10,958	Sanctuary:	22,159		