

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9-20-26

WORSHIP THEME: There are so many wonderful surprises that God reveals in the Word of God. Biblical truth is revealed by God and cannot be discovered by reason alone. While some truth can be obvious to human reason, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected. Today, the unexpected truth revealed is “Grace is amazing!”

† GOD CALLS †

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145

Pastor: Great is the Lord,
ALL: and most worthy of praise!

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and compassionate
ALL: slow to anger and rich in love.

Pastor: The Lord is good to all;
ALL: He has compassion on all he has made.

Pastor: The Lord is faithful to all His promises
ALL: and loving toward all He has made.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen!

OPENING SONG

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

**Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.**

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee;
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

† GOD CLEANSSES †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
ALL: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
ALL: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

Pastor: Together as God's people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God,
our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God be
merciful to me, a sinner.

ALL: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

“You are My King (Amazing Love)” *HT-small blue #40*

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, you were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, you were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
And it's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, you were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
And it's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus You are my King
Jesus You are my King

Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true;
And it's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all!
ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.
⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

THE EPISTLE Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress

and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, ^[a] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

“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.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS
with Thanksgiving in our Offering

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

SONG OF THE DAY
"Amazing Grace"

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!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

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

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

MESSAGE

† GOD GIVES †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

“Come Just As You Are”

**Come just as you are; Hear the Spirit call
Come just as you are; Come and see,
come, receive; Come and live forever.**

Chorus:

**Life everlasting, and strength for today;
Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.**

**Come just as you are; Hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are; Come, receive
Christ, the King; Come and Live forevermore.**

Chorus:

**Life everlasting, and strength for today;
Taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.**

“Thine the Amen Thine the Praise”

**Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.**

**Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.**

**Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore, evermore.**

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonderful surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy, holy, holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee, only Thee

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG "10,000 Reasons"

Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

[Chorus] Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *[Chorus]*

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS †

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

ALL: Amen!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God