

go into the vineyard too.’<sup>8</sup> 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.’<sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.<sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.<sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,<sup>12</sup> 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.’<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**Acknowledgments**

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*St. Mark Lutheran Church  
is a Christ-centered, Historic, Liturgical, Lutheran Congregation in the heart of Waco, Texas.  
We have been serving Waco and the surrounding communities since 1917.*

**Introit** *Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17*



I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.  
**What shall I render | to the LORD\***  
**for all his bene- | fits to me?**  
I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.  
**Precious in the sight | of the LORD\***  
**is the death | of his saints.**  
O LORD, I am your | servant;\*  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have | loosed  
my bonds.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.

**Collect of the Day**

**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.  
**G Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
for those who fear him lack | nothing!  
**Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\***  
**but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.**

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .  
<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.  
<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>and 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. <sup>29</sup>For 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, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

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



<sup>1</sup>[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. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
September 24, 2023

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Opening Hymn                                    | p. 497   |
| “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”                |  |
| Divine Service Three                            | p. 184   |
| Introit   | (see insert)                                     |
| Collect of the Day                              | (see insert)                                     |
| First Reading                                   | (see insert)                                     |
| Gradual   | (see insert)                                     |
| Epistle   | (see insert)                                     |
| Gospel  | (see insert)                                     |
| Nicene Creed                                    | p. 191   |
| Hymn of the Day                                 | (vs. 1-5) p. 555                                 |
| “Salvation unto Us Has Come”                    |  |
| Sermon  |  |
| Hymn  | (vs. 6-10) p. 555                                |
| “Salvation unto Us Has Come”                    |  |
| Offering  | (Offering plates are near the doors as you exit) |
| Prayers of the Church                           | p. 193   |
| Service of the Sacrament                        | p. 194   |
| Distribution Hymns                              |  |
| “How Wide the Love of Christ” p. 535            |  |
| “For Me to Live Is Jesus” p. 742                |  |
| “We Give Thee But Thine Own” p. 781             |  |
| “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” p. 782 |  |
| Nunc Dimittis                                   | p. 199   |
| Salutation & Benedicamus                        | p. 201   |
| Closing Hymn                                    | p. 826   |
| “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”               |  |