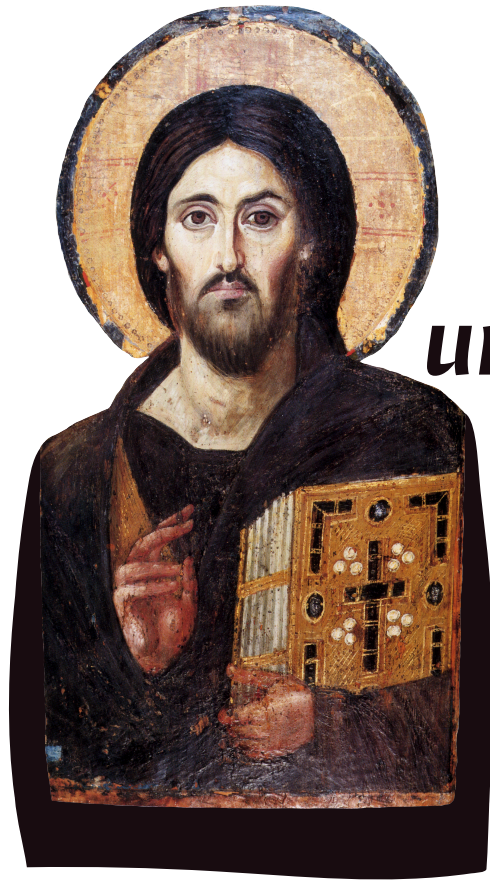




unexpected
TRUTHS

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
GRACE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 ✠ 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM
LARGE PRINT



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WELCOME

We're glad you're here and want you to feel comfortable!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The service is printed here except for hymns which are found in the blue hymnal in the pew. Join in as you're comfortable.

FOR FAMILIES

Children are welcome here! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If needed, the entryway has audio so you can still participate.

NEED HELP?

Ask anyone—we're glad to help.

Pastors Boettcher and Peil would love to meet you - please introduce yourself!

HOLY COMMUNION

If you're a visitor today, please see our note to you about Holy Communion on page 21 .

Thanks for being with us. God bless you through His Word.

WORSHIP SERIES: UNEXPECTED TRUTHS | TODAY: Forgiveness is for me

Some of the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

∞ *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* ∞

HYMN 575 By Grace I'm Saved

**By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
my soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why waver at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
So then this word must true remain:
by grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.**

**2 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
that Jesus died, your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
that brought him from his heav'nly throne.**

**3 By grace! O mark this word of promise
when you are by your sins oppressed,
when Satan plagues your troubled conscience,
and when your heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by his grace to you did send.**

**4 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
in tribulation's furnace tried,
by grace, despite all fear and trouble,
the Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
if grace were not my anchor sure?**

**5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
in Jesus' promise I rejoice,
for though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
since I am saved by grace alone.**

INVOCATION

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of
the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us. *1 John 1:8*

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me,
a sinner.**

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

The simple prayer, "Lord, have mercy" has been the hope-filled cry of Christians for many centuries. We pray to Jesus, who is Lord and Christ, and ask for his help based on his mercy. Kyrie is a Greek word that means "Lord" and eleison means "have mercy".

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You raise us to new
life: Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You forgive us
our sins: Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.

All sing: **Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You feed us with
Your body and blood: Kyrie
eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN (*Gloria in Excelsis*)

**Glory be to God in heaven,
peace to those he loves so well.
On the earth let all his people
speak his grace, his wonders tell:
Lord, we praise you for your glory,
mighty Father, heaven's King;
hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with him in triumph seated—
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit, Three in One!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Jonah is perplexed by the amazing grace of God.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

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. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant 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. But at dawn the next

day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. 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."

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."

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. 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?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**10:15 Service - 1st to 4th grade sing JESUS, TENDER
SHEPHERD , HEAR ME**

*Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
bless thy little lamb tonight;
through the darkness be thou near me,
watch my sleep till morning light.*

*When I'm troubled and afraid
I will trust in thee and pray.
Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
bless thy little lamb tonight,
bless thy little lamb tonight.*

*2 All this day thy hand has led me,
and I thank thee for thy care;
thou hast clothed me, warmed and fed me,
listen to my evening prayer. (Refrain)*

*3 Let my sins be all forgiven,
bless the friends I love so well;
take me, when I die, to heaven,
happy there with thee to dwell. (Refrain)*

SECOND READING

Romans 9:6-16

God shows mercy and grace to those he chooses.

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,
"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 2:8

Alleluia! For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

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

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 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?'

" 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"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.'

"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

'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.'

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.'

Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

HYMN OF THE DAY | 558 Salvation Unto Us Has Come (stanzas 1-6, 10)

**1 Salvation unto us has come
by God's free grace and favor;
good works cannot avert our doom,
they help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
who did for all the world atone;
he is our one Redeemer.**

**2 What God did in his law demand
and none to him could render
caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
for man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires**

**the spirit of the law requires,
and lost is our condition.**

**3 It was a false, misleading dream
that God his law had given
that sinners could themselves redeem
and by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright
to bring the inbred sin to light
that lurks within our nature.**

**4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
sin held its sway unceasing;
the task was useless and in vain,
our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart
or purify our wicked heart,
so deep is our corruption.**

**5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
our human nature sharing.
He has for us the law obeyed
and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
which over us impended.**

**6 Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.**

**10 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!**

**SERMON MATTHEW 20:1-16 Do you understand
grace?**

Please 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

That we may delight in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners may find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That His Word may be the foundation of the home, that husband and wife may be united in this faith and hope, and that their children may hear and be nurtured in this Word by faithful parents, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord may bless missionaries far and near, that He may nurture newly planted congregations, and that He may renew those congregations in distress, that those from every nation and culture may be united with us in faith and life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may enjoy the blessing of good government, faithful leaders, peace in our land and peace among the nations, and that we may be good citizens and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the sick may be healed, the troubled know peace, the grieving be comforted and the dying be delivered to everlasting life in Christ; and that we may all be delivered from fear, anxiety and despair

by God's gracious care, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for... Mike and Joeleen Jones, Betty Moser, John Farrel (all with health struggles), Judy (Nancy Brandt's sister diagnosed with cancer), Bob Bruce (in hospice care), Francine Bailey (recovering from surgery), Brent's son and baby Gentri (both in need of transplant)

Hear the prayers of Your people, O Lord, and grant to us all things good and wholesome and keep from us all things harmful. Give us contentment, that trusting in Your mercy we may delight in Your saving will where the last are made first by Your generosity and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.



There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

One time or recurring GIFTS can be given through an account on our app: Church Center (QR Code on the left.)

*Or, for a one time gift, text **Give + dollar amount (example: Give\$5) to 1 (844)***

791-0302. *You'll receive a link to follow in response.*

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

Please stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Sing, “Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts on high,
your everlasting glory
fills earth and sea and sky.”
Our voices cry, “Hosanna!”**

**Lord, hear our humble plea:
in mercy, come and save us;
in love, come set us free.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How blest is Christ our King,
who died as our Redeemer,
eternal life to bring!
How blest are you, Lord Jesus,
now coming in God's name!
“Hosanna in the highest!”
our grateful hearts proclaim.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him

and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN 576 Amazing Grace

**1 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.**

**2 The Lord has promised good to me,
 his Word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.**

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

**4 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.**

HYMN 584 Jesus Loves Me

**1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong. (Refrain)**

Refrain **Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me! He who died
heaven's gates to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. (Refrain)**

*After the distribution, the minister speaks this
blessing:*

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go
in peace. Your + sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN 582 Not Unto Us

**1 Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
not unto us but to your name be praise;
not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
for matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

**2 Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds
were made;
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.**

**3 O faithful love—that shepherded through
faithless years;
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

**4 Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**



*We thank our Lord for our accompanist, Ali Wiedmann,
children's choir director, Chandra Lange, and our first
through fourth grade students, for using their gifts to adorn
our worship with music this morning!*