

Welcome

We are glad that you have
joined us for worship.

September 20, 2026

Worship Theme

**Unexpected Truths:
Grace Is Amazing**

Pastor Brian Roloff



unexpected
TRUTHS

OPENING HYMN:

#607 Ten Thousand Reasons (vs.1-3)

Refrain:

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.

V1.

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.

Refrain:

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.

V2.

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.

Refrain:

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.

V3.

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.

Refrain:

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.

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

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

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: 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 self-reflection

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

P: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (KYRIE)

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

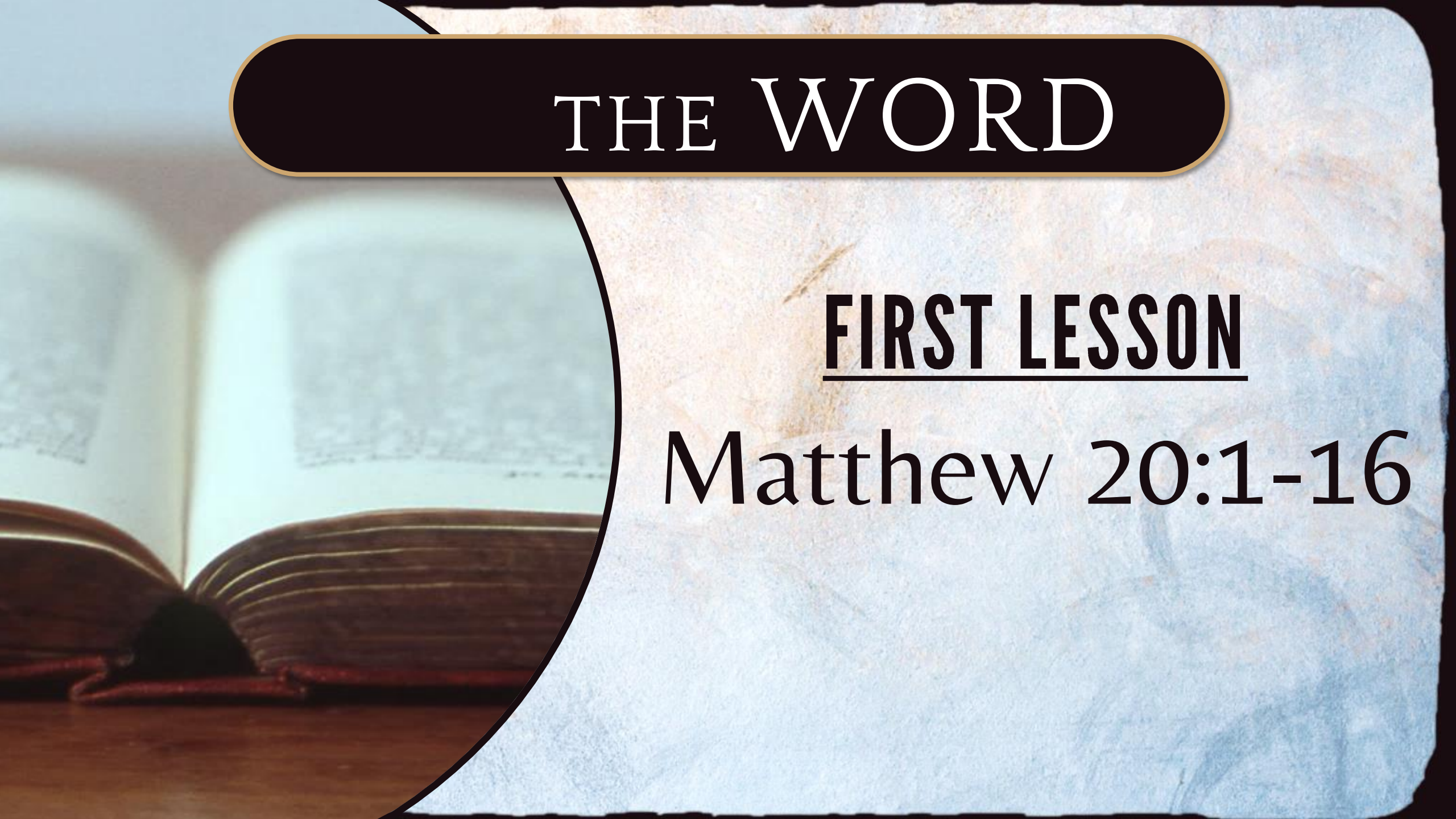
P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid ourselves of worldly expectations and rejoice as you freely bestow the blessing of salvation on all people through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

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

“About the third hour 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 the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour 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.’

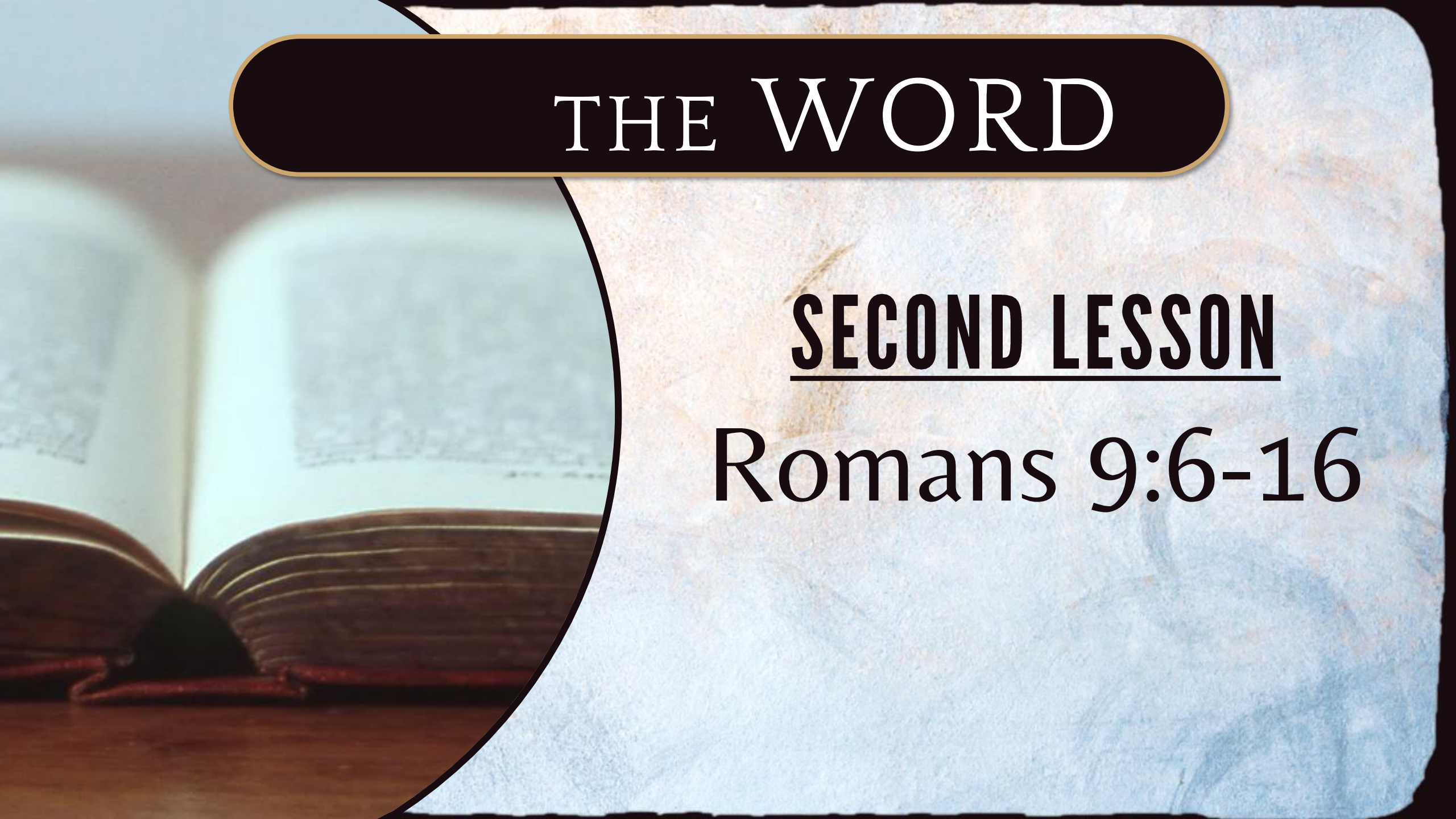
“The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

“ ‘These men 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, ‘Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’

“Take your pay and go. I want to give the man 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 WORD

SECOND LESSON

Romans 9:6-16

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 natural children 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 had one and the same father, 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 man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Please stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father,
the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN: #582 Not unto Us (vs.1-4)

V1.

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.

V2. 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.

V3. 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.

V4.

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.



ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

700 B.C.E.

Nineveh •

Assur •

Babylon •

• Jerusalem

Memphis •

Egypt

PERS







“Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.”



Then God saw their actions—
that they had turned from
their evil ways—so God
relented from the disaster He
had threatened to do to them.
And He did not do it.

(Jonah 3:10)

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became furious. He prayed to the Lord: "Please, Lord, isn't this what I said while I was still in my own country? That's why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place."

“I knew that You are a
merciful and compassionate
God, slow to become angry,
rich in faithful love, and One
who relents from sending
disaster.

“...And now, Lord, please take
my life from me, for it is
better for me to die than to
live.”

The Lord asked, “Is it right for
you to be angry?”

(Jonah 4:1-4)

Jonah left the city and sat down
east of it. He made himself a
shelter there and sat in its shade
to see what would happen to the
city.

(Jonah 4:5)

Then the Lord God appointed a plant, and it grew up to provide shade over Jonah's head to ease his discomfort. Jonah was greatly pleased with the plant.

When dawn came the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, and it withered.

As the sun was rising, God appointed a scorching east wind. The sun beat down so much on Jonah's head that he almost fainted, and he wanted to die. He said, "It's better for me to die than to live."

(Jonah 4:6-8)

Then God asked Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?” “Yes,” he replied. “It is right. I’m angry enough to die!” So the Lord said, “You cared about the plant, which you did not labor over and did not grow. It appeared in a night and perished in a night.

“Should not I care about the great city of Nineveh, which has more than 120,000 people who cannot distinguish between their right hand and their left, as well as many animals?”

(Jonah 4:9-11)









SERMON THEME

**God's amazing
grace gives mercy
to the merciless**

Supporting Us...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.*

If you feel encouraged to support our ministry you can give electronically today. You can also set up recurring offerings automatically just scan the QR.

If you already support us place this card in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment.

Thanks for your generosity!

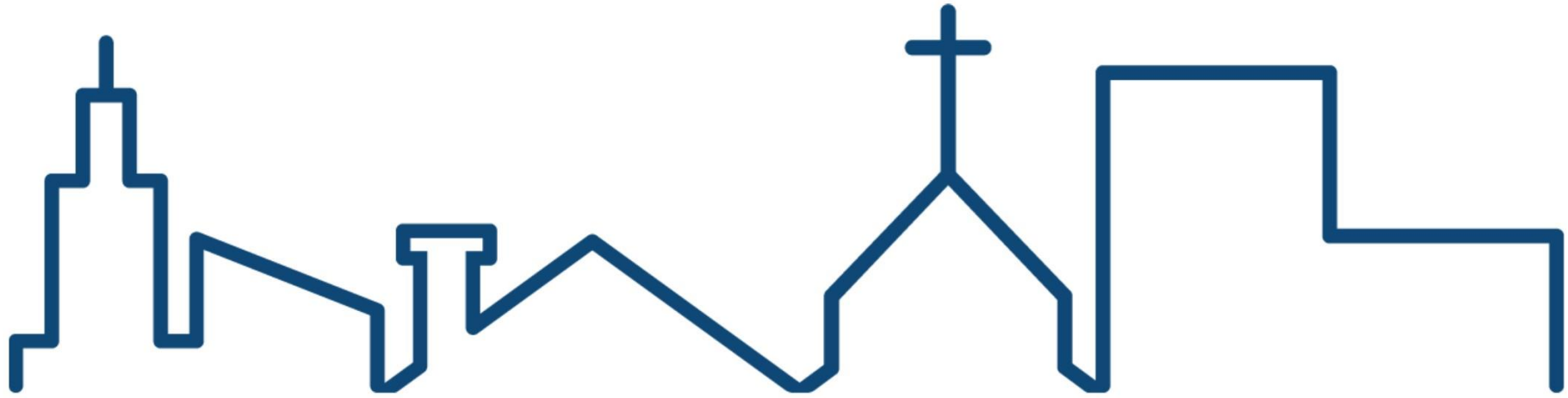


Give





Save the Date



EVERYONE OUTREACH

BUILDING A CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH CULTURE

NOVEMBER 7TH | 8-1:30PM



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- † Kay Morrissey is recovering from knee surgery at home
- † Start of Sunday School
- † Water well at Liberia mission

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, he sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

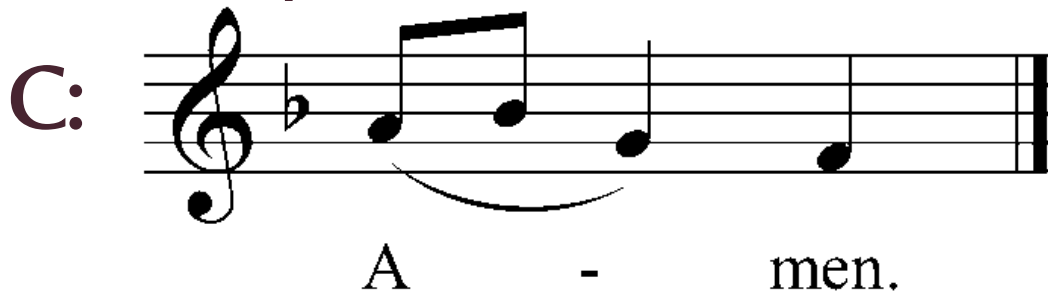
C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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, 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.



AGNUS DEI: O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the

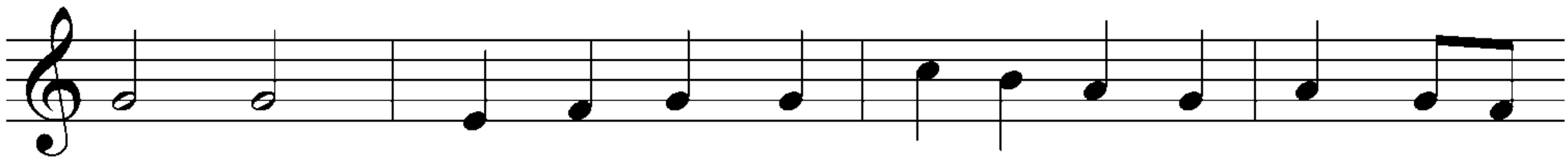


world; have mer-cy on__ us.

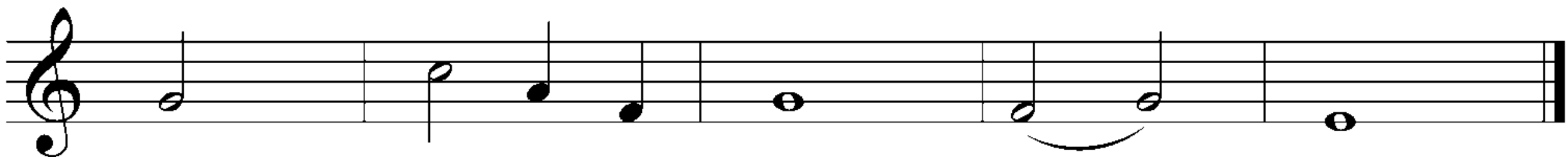
O Christ, Lamb of God, You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on__ us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us Your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Communicant members of Ascension Lutheran and other churches in fellowship in the WELS or ELS are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. If you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor to learn how you can establish a communing fellowship with us. We are eager to help anyone to take this step.

Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled on a separate center tray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

#570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

V1.

God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

V2.

Christ is the solid rock of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death.

All who confide in him alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

V3.

God would not have the sinner die;
his Son with saving grace is nigh.

His Spirit in the Word declares
that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

V4.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives the sins that you have done.

You're justified by Jesus' blood;
baptized, you are a child of God.

V5.

If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

V6.

Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

The Blessings of
The Lord's Supper

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
LIFE AND SALVATION



PRAYER

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and
be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and
give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

#576 Amazing Grace (vs.1-4)

V1.

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.

V2.

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

V3.

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

V4.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONNECTION CARD



**Please take a moment and fill out the
info on the connection card, located under the
Worship Today button on our app or on our website.
There is a tablet in entryway or scan the QR code.
Please fill out and submit.**

Liberia UPDATE





You are a **CHOSEN** people, a **ROYAL** priesthood, a **HOLY** nation,
God's **SPECIAL** possession, that you may declare the praises
of Him who **CALLED** you out of the darkness into
His wonderful **LIGHT**.

1 Peter 2:9

Chosen
Royal
Holy
Special
Called
Light

THANKS FOR SERVING

✝ Pianist/Organist: Dan Stelljes

✝ AV Team

✝ Serving: Flock #3: Brian Stein