

Pastor's Bible Class

September 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 20

#827 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, “Who will go and work to - day?
2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;
3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing—Who will bear the sheaves a - way?”
Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;
Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God’s Word so rich - ly yields.
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Read Isaiah 55:6-9

1. Commenting on verse 6, one scholar writes, “the Lord directs all things that he may be found through His near presence in the Word. Thus the efforts of a person’s seeking do not result in the Lord being found. Rather, the Lord has set Himself before His people and calls them to open their eyes—to see Him as He is there, near to them. To call on Him is to confess already that He is near for their provision. Calling signifies the trust that the caller puts in the Lord.” Why is this distinction so important, and in what way is God near? See Isaiah 55:11.

2. What assurances does God give in verse 7?

3. What does God tell us about His “ways” in verses 8 and 9?
4. Is this comforting or disconcerting to you? Why?

Read Matthew 20:1-16

5. Today’s Gospel reading begins a response to the previous exchange between Jesus and Peter. What prompts Peter’s statement in Matthew 19:27?
6. Jesus ultimately answers Peter by saying, “many who are the first will be last, and the last first” and then goes right into today’s text. Why is this teaching of Jesus a significant introduction to today’s parable?
7. What is the first scandal in this story? Why?
8. What is the even greater scandal and what is the response of the “good” laborers?
9. How are “grumblers” portrayed in the following passages of Scripture?
 - Luke 5:30
 - John 6:41, 43, 61
 - John 7:32
 - 1 Corinthians 10:9-10
10. How does the action of the Master sit with you?

Devotional Thought from “The Lutheran Study Bible”

“Serving in the Lord’s kingdom is a privilege and labor of love, not something undertaken to gain a reward. When we begin to think that God’s kingdom needs or depends on us, we get it completely backward. We need and depend on it! Through forgiveness and the renewing work of God’s Spirit, we can indeed be used by God for vital service in His kingdom” (TLSB, 1625).

Prayer

Almighty God, we give You thanks that in Your wisdom You sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal Yourself to us. You were not content to be simply God Almighty. You revealed yourself to be God of Grace. The extent of Your graciousness toward us is always a shock to us. You are not God as we imagined God to be. For Your grace to us, Your unending love for us, we give You thanks. Help us to be grateful receivers of Your grace, grateful to have You as the God You are rather than the God we feared You to be. Amen.