

Pastor's Bible Study

August 24, 2025

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 16

#915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Read Isaiah 66:18-23

1. Who is the Lord talking about in verse 18 when He says, “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming ...”? See Isaiah 65:2.

2. What is being described in verse 19? See Matthew 24:30-31.

3. The “holy mountain Jerusalem” is pictured as the destination for all nations. To what does this title refer? See Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:1-10 and 25:6-9.

4. What other imagery of heaven is used in verses 22 and 23?

Read Luke 13:22-30

5. Verse 22 gives us information about the setting for today’s text. According to Luke 10:1, what is significant about the towns and villages Jesus is visiting?

6. Where is He going, and what’s important to note about His destination?

7. About the question asked in verse 23, one commentator writes, “He who is serious about his salvation does not ask such a question.” What do you think motivated the question in verse 23, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?”

8. Look at Philippians 3:12-14 and Romans 6:1-14. How do these verses help us understand Jesus’ daunting instructions in verse 24?

9. What is the point of the parable Jesus tells in verses 25-27?

10. What is the subject of Jesus’ teaching in verses 28-29?

11. Is the final verse of this reading Law or Gospel? Why?

Devotional Thought from The Lutheran Study Bible

“People can enter God’s kingdom only through Jesus Christ. Moreover, the time for every human being – and indeed the world – is quickly slipping away and soon the door will be shut. Accordingly, the Lord calls one and all to come into the great wedding banquet of His Son, without cost and without delay” (TLSB, 1744).

Prayer

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (Collect for Proper 16 – Lectionary C).