

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Introduction to the day

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BAPTISM – Matthew Carl Sack

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Scandalous Grace

Jesus loved to tell strange, unsettling stories to illustrate God's grace. Theologians and biblical scholars have wrestled with the parables of Jesus for centuries, trying to make them make sense. But perhaps the beauty of these strange illustrations is that they refuse to succumb to our need for logic or neat conclusions. They are wild, confusing, and often scandalous—much like God's love for God's people.

This parable is one such story that has the power to offend us with its backward-seeming logic. A landowner who keeps inviting new laborers to join the workforce, paying them the same amount for different amounts of work? To be sure, this is not a commentary on how to run a business or abide by fair labor practices. Instead, it is a reminder of the outrageousness of God's kingdom or reign and the scandal of God's grace.

The kingdom of God functions by its own rules: It is a table where there is always room for more people, and an endless supply of bread and wine. It is a font where all are welcome, where all are invited to splash in the waters of baptism and be named children of God. It is a realm where our rules of space and time no longer apply, as we enter into ancient story and liturgy alongside the saints who have come before us. It is a sanctuary where we

find the courage to confess our sins and receive God's extravagant, scandalous forgiveness. It is a community where love and justice supersede force and greed. It is a safe place where the most vulnerable are the most cared for, and generosity abounds so that all have enough. And it is a kingdom where all are invited to participate. Much like how the landowner hired new laborers until the end of the day, it's never too late to be welcomed by God's mercy!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Doug Sell, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

Announcements:

Sunday, September 20th – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion

10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion - Baptism

Sunday School

Greeters: Claire and Jane Lemke; **Reader:** Stacey Lance

Communion Assistants: Margaret Weckwerth and

Joanne Hoelke

Altar Guild: Margaret Felhaber and Karen Sell

Bell Ringer: Robert Pape; **Elevator:** Jack Schaven;

Head Usher: Charlotte Schaven

Monday, September 21st

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

Tuesday, September 22nd

10:00 AM – Bible Study

Wednesday, September 23rd

6:30 to 8:30 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, September 24th

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Sunday, September 27th – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Bonnechere - SOW

10:30 AM - Grace – SOW - Sunday School

Greeter: Joan Schroeder; **Reader:** John Yakabuski

Bell Ringer: Robert Pape

Elevator: Jack Schaven; **Head Usher:** Charlotte Schaven

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Newsletter Deadline: Any group or committee who want to include information in the October Newsletter or anyone who would like to sponsor the newsletter in honour of a special occasion or in loving memory of loved ones, please let the office know no later than Tuesday, September 22, 2026

The **Sunday School** invites you to help fill our wagons with food for the **Eganville Foodbank**. This will take place in the narthex from September 6 until October 11, Thanksgiving Sunday. Please show your love to your neighbours by filling our wagons to the top!

Sebastopol Harvest Service. - Sunday, September 27th - 2:30 PM

Join our Thanksgiving worship followed by a potluck lunch. Enjoy a wonderful worship experience and the beginning of fall colours on the mountain.

Please join us for our **MEMORIAL SERVICE** at **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rankin,** *Remembering, Giving thanks, Celebrating hope*, on Sunday, **September 27th at 3:00 PM**, with Pastor Bruce Thompson presiding. Followed by a delicious meal in the reception hall downstairs. All folks are welcome.

Reformation Service

Sunday October 18, 2026

Rankin Community Centre 3:00 pm

Rev. Matthew Brown, Parish of the Valley – Anglican Guest Preacher

Dinner 5:00 pm - Dinner Tickets \$35.00

Smoked Pork Loin with all the trimmings.

Available at your church office until October 4, 2026

Come Worship and Connect with your
Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican Families.

Organized by the Ottawa Valley Ministry Team
Eastern Synod of the ELCIC

HELP WANTED - We are looking for person(s) who would be willing to adopt a section or sections of the flower beds at the church. For more information contact Joanne Hoelke at [613 628-2401](tel:6136282401). Your help would be greatly appreciated.