

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**  
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
 Church Year Cycle A



**THEME FOR THE WEEK:**

*Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.*

**WEEKLY MILESTONES:**



Take a moment to have each person share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK:**



*"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

**Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)**

**GOSPEL READING INTRODUCTION:**



In this reading, Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the laborers in the vineyard where the landowner hired laborers for his vineyard at different times of the day but paid the usual daily wage to each one.

**GOSPEL READING:**

**Read: Matthew 20:1-16**

**Parable of the vineyard workers**

**GOSPEL READING QUESTIONS:**



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. In this reading, about what time did the landowner go out the second time to hire laborers?</p>  | <p><b>A</b> Ten o'clock<br/> <b>B</b> Eleven o'clock<br/> <b>C</b> Noon<br/> <b>D</b> Nine o'clock</p>   |
| <p>2. In this reading, about what time did the landowner go out the last time to hire laborers?</p>  | <p><b>A</b> Three o'clock<br/> <b>B</b> Four o'clock<br/> <b>C</b> Five o'clock<br/> <b>D</b> Six o'clock</p>  |
| <p>3. In this reading, what did the landowner ask the first workers who grumbled about getting equal pay to those who only worked an hour?</p> | <p><b>A</b> Why are you so selfish?<br/> <b>B</b> Did you not agree to the usual daily wage?<br/> <b>C</b> Do you ever want to work again?<br/> <b>D</b> Do you want to get paid less?</p> |

Answer key on page 2



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## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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### GOSPEL READING DISCUSSION:



- What words stay in your mind or what ideas do you have from this reading?
- What message do you hear for us in this reading?
- How does this reading influence your thoughts, feelings, or future actions?

### RELATED READINGS FOR REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTING:



|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jonah 3:10–4:11     | Jonah goes to Nineveh         |
| Philippians 1:21-30 | What life means to Paul       |
| Psalms 136          | God's love never fails        |
| Matthew 5:3-12      | The Beatitudes                |
| Acts 20:32-38       | Paul says goodbye             |
| Psalms 145:1-8      | The Lord is kind and merciful |

### RELATED READINGS DISCUSSION:



What similar themes or general concept did you discover in these related readings? How do they connect to the theme for the week: Responding to God's generosity with gratitude?

### HYMN OF THE WEEK:



#### *To God Our Thanks We Give*

*Text:* Botswanan traditional, Daisy Nshakazongwe, (1932- )  
*Music:* Botswanan traditional, Daisy Nshakazongwe, (1932- )



<https://vimeo.com/439635150>

**[Evangelical Lutheran Worship #682]**

### CLOSING PRAYER:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### CLOSING BLESSING:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.



Answer Key: 1-D, 2-C, 3-B