

✠ ORDER OF SERVICE ✠

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Hymn .555 Stanzas 1-5	
Invocation.....	151
Confession & Absolution	151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

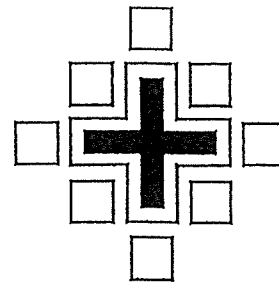
Introit	(See Insert)
Kyrie	152
Gloria In Excelsis..	154
Salutation and Collect	156
Old Testament	156
Gradual	(See Insert)
Epistle	156
Alleluia and Verse.	156
Holy Gospel.....	157
Hymn555 Stanzas 6-10	
Sermon	
Nicene Creed	158
Prayer of the Church	159

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion Liturgy	160
Distribution....	625, 617
Nunc Dimittis	165
Post-Communion Collect	166
Benediction.....	166
Hymn	827

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020



INTROIT *Ps. 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: Ps. 116:17*

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

What shall I render | to the LORD *

for all his bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*

and call on the name | of the LORD,

Precious in the sight | of the LORD *

is the death | of his saints.

O LORD, I am your | servant;*

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*

for those who fear him lack | nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*

but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

DAILY READINGS

September 20: Neh. 4:7–23; 1 Tim. 3:1–16; 21: Neh. 5:1–16; 6:1–9, 15–16; 1 Tim. 4:1–16; 22: Neh. 7:1–4; 8:1–18; 1 Tim. 5:1–16; 23: Neh. 9:1–21; 1 Tim. 5:17–6:2; 24: Neh. 9:22–38; 1 Tim. 6:3–21; 25: Mal. 1:1–14; Matt. 3:1–17; 26: Mal. 2:1–3:5; Matt. 4:1–11.

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Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 55:6–9

- 6 “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his
thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may
have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will
abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your
ways
and my thoughts than your
thoughts.”

Epistle: Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I

come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”