

“TAKE 10 - Worship While Away” (Sunday, September 20, 2026)

Share:

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

God's greatness is unsearchable.

From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Read these words from a hymn:

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come,

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

Read this scripture from worship:

Jonah 3:10-4:11, *The Message*

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

⁴ ¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Matthew 20:1-16, *The Message*

1-2 "God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day and went to work.

3-5 "Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

5-6 "He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?'

7 "They said, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

8 "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.'

9-12 "Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.'

13-15 "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

16 "Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."

Talk Together:

- ✂ Think about a day when you were thankful and showed it. Compare it with a day when you wanted to grumble or complain. What was the difference?
- ✂ When and what has God provided for me?
- ✂ How do I feel about God's grace and unconditional love? Regarding me?
Regarding others?
- ✂ Am I ever resentful of God's generosity toward the "undeserving?" Can God be unfair?
- ✂ How does Jesus' idea of equality – "The Great Reversal" – surprise you?
- ✂ How does generosity change your concept of fairness?
- ✂ How does God's provision and generosity invite us to think about our own lives?

Pray together:

God of every blessing, we remember the works of your hands: the days you save us, the people who embrace us, the moments we feel free, and the dreams you give us. All of it is from you, Faithful One. Sustain us with your strength, that we may be surprised by the miraculous gift of life itself. Amen.