

## 1 October 2017 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Readings:** Ezek. 18:1–4, 25–32; Philippians 2:1–13; Mt. 21:23–32.

1Co 1:3, “Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Theme:** *Sola Gratia*. Newsboys, “When we don't get what we deserve, That's a real good thing; When we get what we don't deserve; That's a real good thing.” **Grace** – (in Christian belief) *the unmerited favour of God* (AOD).



### I. WE DON'T GET WHAT WE DESERVE.

*Cf.* “As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, The soul from purgatory springs.”

**Psalm 103:10**, “he does not treat us as our sins **deserve** or repay us according to our iniquities.” **Romans 3:23, 6:23**, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Titus 3:5-6**, “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.” **Lamentations 3:22-23**, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; **his mercies** never come to an end; they **are new every morning**; great is your faithfulness.”



### II. WE GET WHAT WE DON'T DESERVE.

**John 3:16**, “God so loved the world **that he gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have **eternal life**.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**, “**by grace** you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is **the gift of God**, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21**, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God**.”

**Ephesians 4:8**, “the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts.”



### III. WE LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF THAT REALITY.

**Acts 2:38-39**, “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’”

**LOL**: “The Christian life is marked by assurance and joy. This is one of the hallmarks of the Reformation, and understandably so. The Reformation’s rediscovery regarding justification – that, instead of working toward a hoped-for arrival at it, the Christian life actually begins with it – brought stunning deliverance, filling mind, will, and affections with joy. It meant that one could now begin to live in the light of a settled future in glory. Inevitably, that light reflected back into the present life, bringing intense relief and release.”

I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, The son of God discloses  
And he walks with me and he talks with me, And he tells me I am  
his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever  
known

He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet; The birds hush  
their singing,  
And the melody that he gave to me Within my heart is ringing  
And he walks with me and he talks with me, And he tells me I am  
his own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever  
known



**CONCLUSION: Standing on Your Head. LOL**: “Perhaps that very day some of those who heard him preach responded and experienced

the ‘confidence’ of which he spoke. Who knows but some of the younger hearers later wrote to their friends in turn and told them that they had gone home and stood on their heads for joy.” May God help us be so confident in God’s grace and love that we might do the same.

