



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2026 Setting 3 8:15

As We Gather

Churches today that have a problem with recruiting volunteers are forgetting an important distinction – God has called us to be “stewards” not “volunteers.” There is a big difference.

Hymn of Invocation "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" LSB 904

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word

We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Text: Public domain

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- A** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- A** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 4a

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**²When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

**⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to you,

"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

⁹Hide not your face from me.

Turn not your servant away in anger,

O you who have been my help.

Cast me not off; forsake me not,

O God of my salvation!

Gloria Patri (sing)

☐ Glory be to the Father

and to the Son

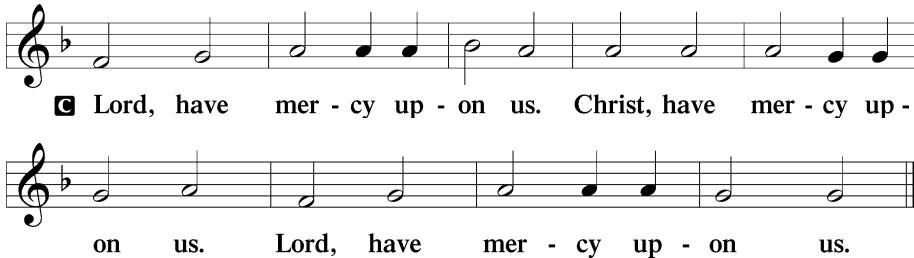
and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

Kyrie



☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis (sing)

C Glory be to God on high:
and on earth peace,
goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks
to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away
the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away
the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy;
Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

A The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

A Let us pray.

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.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let 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.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 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.

Epistle

1 Peter 4:7–11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day "Forgive us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" LSB 788

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we're unaware:

Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
That shows Your message ever new and near.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,
For words that speak at variance with deeds;
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs:

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,
That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine,"
Assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

Text: William Watkins Reid, Sr., 1890–1983, alt.

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Sermon "Called to be Stewards Not Volunteers" 1Peter 4:20

Offertory (Sing)

C Create in me
a clean heart, O God,
and renew
a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not
away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy
Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me
the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me
with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

A Let us pray.

Lord God our heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your good creation and for Your re-creation of a people of eternal hope and life, Your holy church throughout the world. Keep, we pray, all pastors and believers in the joyful hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Help all people of the world and especially of our own nation to not lose heart in the face of earthly troubles but to endure with faith in Your gracious promises of the forgiveness of sins and the hope and peace of Your new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A In the midst of trouble, anxiety, sickness, or fear of death, comfort, heal, and raise up all who call upon You in their need, especially *Lennie Sprayberry, Rick Miller, John Haubold, Jan Peterson, Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Kerstin Krueger, Joseph Davis* Bless all who minister healing and deliverance to those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For this congregation, during this Pastoral call process and granting your wisdom to our Call Committee and Staff during this vacancy. Knowing God is God and that we have been raised with Christ, our lives be transformed from the old self with its selfish practices to life abundant with the new self, filled with generosity toward God and others. In mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lord, we pray for Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, David, Sue, Carleigh Hughes, Gary & Liz Keith, Darby, Isabella, Isla Keller, Kirk Kessler, Bless the children of our CLC Weston, Chase, Amaziere, Easton, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering: Kathy Gills "Freely, Freely"

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

☞ Thank you, Lord, for blessing us that we might be a blessing to others.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

A Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

A It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sing)

C Holy, holy,
holy Lord God
of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth
are full
of Thy glory.

**Blessed is He,
blessed is He,**

**blessed is He
that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

P 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei (sing)

- C** O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away
the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

**O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away
the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ,
Thou Lamb of God,
that takest away
the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace.
Amen.**

Distribution Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" LSB 783

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne,

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" LSB 636

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
 Worthily let me receive You
 And, so favored, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
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Nunc Dimittis (sing)

**☩ Lord, now lettest
Thou Thy servant
depart in peace
according to Thy word,

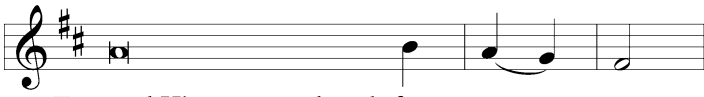
for mine eyes have seen
Thy salvation,
which Thou hast
prepared before
the face of all people,

a light to lighten
the Gentiles
and the glory
of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever
shall be,
world without end.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

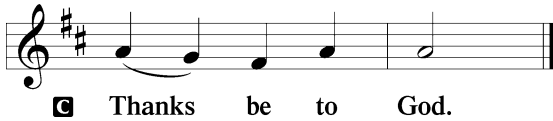
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

A Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Hymn to Depart "Praise and Thanksgiving" LSB 789

Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer
For all things living,
Created good:
Harvest of sown fields,
Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields,
Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor
We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor
We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling
For daily bread.

Father, providing
Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding
Teach us to share
One with another,
So that, rejoicing
With us, all others
May know Your care.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84

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Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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