



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Sept 20, 2026 Blended Setting 3 10:45

Welcome

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.

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP +

Opening Song "Christ our Hope in Life and Death" SSP 89

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
What holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

O Sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Unto the grave what shall we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
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Text: Jordan Kauflin; (sts. , , , ,): Matthew Merker; (sts. , , , ,): Keith Getty; (sts. , , , ,): Matt Boswell; (sts. , , , ,): Matt Papa
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Invocation

P We begin our worship this day in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 27:1–9

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!

Confession and Absolution

[A] Almighty God,

[C] Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess to You that we have sinned. We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Because of the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgiving us all that is past and granting us the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.

[P] God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent. The Lord keep you in His grace and favor and bring you to everlasting life. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[A] He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[C] Amen.

Song of Forgiveness "How Deep (I will not boast)" SSP 40

I will not boast in anything.
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Text: Stuart Townend

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Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray.

O Holy Trinity, You are God from everlasting to everlasting, Your kingdom stretches from shore to shore, and by the cross of Christ, You are reconciling all things to Yourself. Surround us with Your expansive Gospel, that just as You separate us from our sin as far as the east is from the west, You would gather those from every language and locale to confess You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and join You in paradise. In Your holy name we pray.

C Amen.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

Old Testament

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.**

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.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–6

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹For 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?'

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **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.**

CLC Chimes "Christ the Word of God Incarnate"

Children's Message

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

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. Let us pray...

Lord's Prayer

**☐ 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.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Offerings are Received

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.)

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

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, Lord God, heavenly King, for the grace You have shown to all creation in sending a Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. To the condemned, He speaks: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise," and we truly taste His Word fulfilled among us as He gathers us around His life-giving body and blood. Help us to partake of this heavenly feast in sincerity and truth, looking forward to the royal banquet that awaits as the faithful are gathered by Christ, the Lamb, in the midst of the throne, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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."

Song of Sacrifice "Lamb of God " SSP 13

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you break the chains of hatred and fear;
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you are the way of justice and peace:
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you are the way of mercy and love:
have mercy on us,
mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Song "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" SSP 39

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm 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

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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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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Song of Blessing "Thanks be to You" SSP 14

Praise to you, O God of mercy!
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to you forever!

From of old you loved and sought us!
Thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us:
Thanks be to you forever!
Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

Praise to you, O God of mercy!
Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
Thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Text: Marty Haugen

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Post-Communion Collect

A O Lord, You have given us grace this day to hear in our ears the Good News of our Lord's resurrection and to receive with our lips His crucified and risen body and blood. Grant that by this Holy Communion we be sustained in faith, equipped to fulfill the good purpose of Your love in our daily lives, and be kept holy and blameless until He comes to bring us into the place of everlasting light and life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

A The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" SSP 56

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.

You have brought me
From death to life
I was lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free

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.

You have brought me
From death to life
I was lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free

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.

You have brought me
From death to life
as lost and you found me
Do what is good in your sight
Through this body you've set free

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79; Chorus by Heather Rasch
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Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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