

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Opening Words Exodus 16: 2-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord."

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

The Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

***Hymn "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" Hymnal 400**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering from the fold of God;
he to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily
I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Welcome

Pastor Scott Clawson

Call to Worship

In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by
challenges on all sides...

**We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for
the faith of the gospel.**

In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision
and abundance deep in our bones...

**We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for
the faith of the gospel.**

In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live
in unity together...

**We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for
the faith of the gospel.**

Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to
press on...

**As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith
of the gospel.**

Hymn "Close to Thee " Hymnal 407

WORDS: Fanny J Crosby, MUSIC: Silas J Vail

Thou my everlasting portion,
more than friend or life to me,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

Not for ease or worldly pleasure,
nor for fame my prayer shall be;
gladly will I toil and suffer,
only let me walk with thee.

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
gladly will I toil and suffer,
only let me walk with thee.

Lead me through the vale of shadows,
bear me o'er life's fitful sea;
then the gate of life eternal
may I enter, Lord, with thee.

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
then the gate of life eternal
may I enter, Lord, with thee.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name.

Anthem

Prayer of Confession

We continue to believe that we must earn our way into God's heart.
But God's grace is given to each of us,
for all of us,
freely, unconditionally, always.
Let us open our lives to this mercy as we pray, saying,

**It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory.
We say we will live to serve others,
but end up meeting only our needs.
We claim to live in a way that honors Christ,
but we do not take him to work, school, home.
We believe that the gospel can transform lives,
(at least, for those who need it - not us).
Forgive us, Presence of Peace.
Instead of grumblers,
may we be ambassadors of grace.
Instead of continual complaining,
may we carry compassion to the hurting.
Instead of whiners,
may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we
meet.**

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news:
there is no ranking in God's kingdom.
God graces everyone with the same gifts:
mercy, restoration, new life.

God has kept the covenant.

**We have been forgiven,
we have been made new people.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gospel Reading Matthew 20: 1-16

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "It's Raining Bread"

Pastor Scott Clawson

*** Hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour" Hymnal 397**

Text: Annie S. Hawks, Music: Robert Lowry

I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour;
stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh.

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,
or life is vain.

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour,
teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises
in me fulfil.

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

I need thee every hour,
most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son.

I need thee,
O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.

Benediction

As you go from this place, may God bless you with wisdom, courage, and perseverance to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. **As we work, rest, play, and strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS

Lay Reader: Beth Peterson
Ushers/ Greeters: Melinda McCollum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NMUMC by the Numbers: September 13, 2026

8:15 AM: 18 9:30 AM: 41 11:00 AM: 38 Online: 38
Adult Sunday School: 6 Children's Sunday School: 28

Total Offering: \$2,667.00 *Regular Offering:* \$2,337.00*
Hope4Kids: \$5.00 New Ministry Center: \$325.00
**Amount Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$5,862.53*

Church Meetings

Monday, September 21: Care Team – 5:30 PM - ED Building Kitchen

Monday, September 21: Finance Meeting– 7:30 PM

Contact Carole Zimmerman

Tuesday, September 22: SPRC – 7:00 PM – ED Building Kitchen

Wednesday, September 23: Bible 101 – 6:00 PM – ED Building
Kitchen

Wednesday, September 23: Wed. Night Bible Study – 7:00 PM

Contact Patty Robinson

Thursday, September 24: 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 PM – ED
Building

Sunday, September 27: Last Outdoor Service

Fresh Start Service: This service will be held at 8:15 am at Fairview Chapel. (6802 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market 21774) The design for this service is for those who want to get an early start on their Sunday and those who are seeking an alternate worship experience. Acoustic guitar, prayer, a short inspirational message, and Communion will be highlighted. The service is designed to last a half hour. OR join us later for an evening service at 6:00 PM

The Wednesday night Zoom Bible study will begin on Wednesday,

September 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM

The class will continue the study started last Spring, "Not Guilty—Be Free to Experience God's Love," by Brian and Candice Simmons. This is a devotional study on the Book of Romans. You can jump in at any time. If you are interested and need a book, let Patty Robinson know—240-441-1170.

Mark Your Calendars now for the Fiesta Friday dinner on Friday, October 16.

Daily Devotions Starting 9/21/26

Monday (9/21)- Exodus 17: 1-7

Do you ever get tired of people asking you for things? What was Moses' response? Ask for wisdom from the Lord today to discern what to do about petitions you receive.

Tuesday (9/22)- Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

Why did Jesus teach in parables? Reference Matthew 13: 10-13. What are the ways you can utilize outside resources to understand what Jesus is teaching through the parables?

Wednesday (9/23)- Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

What form of "wickedness" or unrighteousness do you need to repent for today? Ask and you shall receive the comfort and healing of the Lord.

Thursday (9/24)- Psalm 25: 1-9

Repeat these Psalm verses slowly today, pausing between each verse. What is the Lord conveying to you today through these words?

Friday (9/25)- Philippians 2: 1-13

How can Christians become of the same mind? How does Christ mirror this discipline for the world?

Saturday (9/26)- Matthew 21: 23-32

Think of times when you did not do what you said you would do. Who did you let down? Are there also times that you were like the second son? What made the difference?

Sunday (9/27)- Worship in person or online.

Pastor Scott's Contact Information: Pastorscott62@gmail.com

240-409-8119 | Summer Office Hours: Thursday | 11 AM-4 PM