



KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 AM

*Congregation responses in **Bold**.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise the Lord Laura Story, Mac Powell, Shawn Lewis

Chorus 1

Praise the Lord oh my soul
I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praises to my God
Even with my dying breath

Verse 1

He is the One, Who made Heaven and earth
The sea and ev'rything in it
He is the One, Who keeps every promise forever
He gives justice to the oppressed
And sets the pris'ner free

Verse 2

He is the One, Who feeds the hungry
And opens the eyes of the blind
He lifts up the burdens

Of those beneath heavy loads
The stranger He protects
And the righteous one He loves

Bridge

The Lord will reign forever
Our God is King to all generations
The Lord will reign forever our God (REPEAT)

Chorus 2

We will praise the Lord oh my soul
We will praise the Lord as long as we live
We will sing praises to our God
Even with our dying breath (REPEAT)

Ending

Even with our dying breath
Even with our dying breath

GATHERING MUSIC

Great is the Lord

Michael W. Smith

Verse

Great is the Lord
He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love

Chorus 1

Great is the Lord
And worthy of glory
Great is the Lord
And worthy of praise
Great is the Lord
Now lift up your voice
Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord

Chorus 2

Great are You Lord
And worthy of glory
Great are You Lord
And worthy of praise
Great are You Lord
I lift up my voice
I lift up my voice
Great are You Lord

Ending

Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

READING Psalm 145:1-8

L A reading from Psalm 145.

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
² Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
⁴ One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
⁵ On the glorious splendour of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
⁶ The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L Word of God, word of life. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, '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.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Richard Graf



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Prayer petitions will conclude: "Hear us, O God."

The congregation's response is: "Your mercy is great."

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

OFFERING

The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come forward for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

OFFERING PRAYER

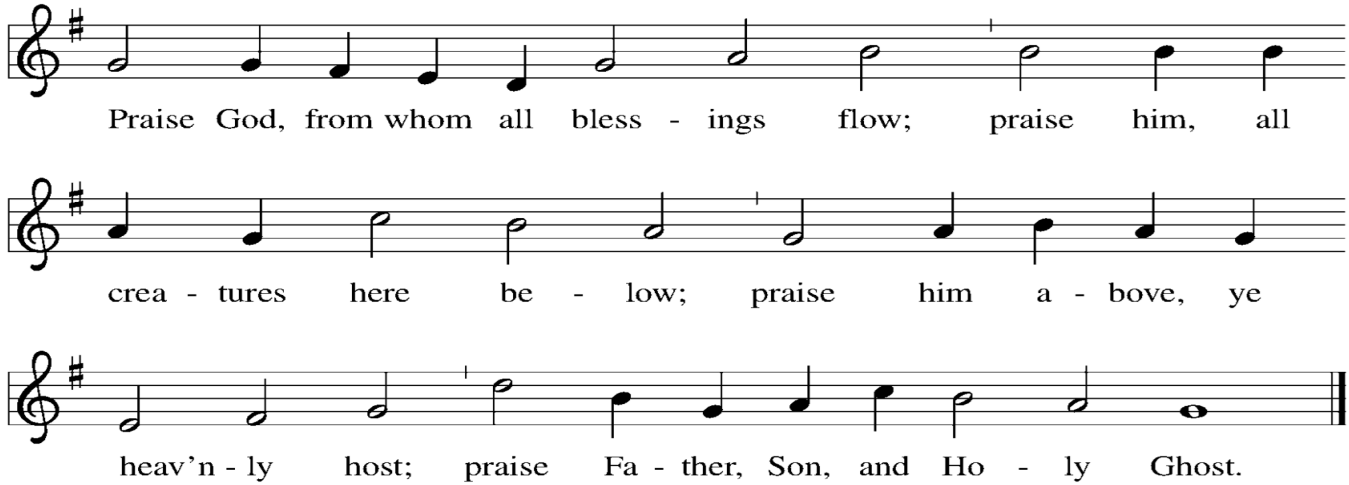
P Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C Amen.

OFFERING SONG

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Thomas Ken



HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C **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.

INVITATION

P Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

Grace Flows Down

David Bell

VERSE A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound; a-maz-ing love,

now flow-ing down from hands and feet that were

nailed to the tree as grace flows down and cov-ers me.

CHORUS

It cov-ers me, it cov-ers me,

it cov-ers me, and cov-ers me.

COMMUNION SONG ELW 838

Beautiful Savior

Joseph Seiss

1 Beau-ti-ful Sav-ior, King of cre-a-tion,
 2 Fair are the mead-ows, fair are the wood-lands,
 3 Fair is the sun-shine, fair is the moon-light,
 4 Beau-ti-ful Sav-ior, Lord of the na-tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs and of bloom-ing spring;
 bright the spar-klings on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru-ly I'd love thee, tru-ly I'd serve thee,
 Je-sus is fair-er, Je-sus is pur-er,
 Je-sus shines bright-er, Je-sus shines pur-er,
 Glo-ry and hon-or, praise, ad-o-ra-tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor-rowing spir-it sing.
 than all the an-gels in the sky.
 now and for-ev-er-more be thine!

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C Amen.

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lift High the Cross

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!