



# **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday, September 20, 2026  
9:00 am**

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk \* indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

**Serving in Worship Today**

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Presiding Minister   | Rev. Andrea McDonough  |
| Organist             | Gerry Mass             |
| Assisting Minister   | Harry Werner           |
| Lector               | Jen Lasher-Dobush      |
| Offering Bearer      | Maggie Hernandez       |
| Parish Administrator | Jennifer Lasher-Dobush |
| Custodian            | Vanessa Petrakos       |

**Parish Calendar: 9/21/2026**

|           |                                         |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist                |
| Monday    | 6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Hall         |
| Tuesday   | 6:00-8:00 pm Women’s AA Meeting in Hall |
| Wednesday | 6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Hall         |
| Thursday  | 5:00 Community Meal in Hall             |
| Friday    | 6:30-8:30pm GOD AA Meeting in hall      |
| Saturday  | 11:00am-12:00pm NCMBC Bible Study Hall  |
|           | 3:00 – 5:00pm AA Meeting in Hall        |
|           | 6:00-8:00pm CA Meeting in Hall          |

|        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist |
|--------|--------------------------|

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Office Hours           |
| Monday Office Closed   |
| Tuesday 10:00-3:00pm   |
| Wednesday 10:00-3:00pm |
| Thursday 10:00-3:00pm  |
| Friday 10:00-12:00pm   |
| Saturday Office Closed |
| Sunday 8:00 10:30 am   |

216-662-0370  
Martin@covenantmaplehts.org  
revandreamcdonough@gmail.com

## **\*Dismissal**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

### **Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:**

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Marge (Shriver) Katarzynski, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Phyllis Nemeth, Patti Novak, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Claude, Starks, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

### **Last Week**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 9/13/2026: \$ 2062.00**

## **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 20 , 2026**

---

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Prelude**

### **\*Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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

Compassionate God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn: Take My Life That I May Be ELW # 583

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas Last time  
y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo

pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

\*Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you

\*Post Communion Prayer

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. Amen.

\*Blessing

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

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

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever. Amen.

\*Sending Hymn: Rise Up, O Saints of God! ELW #669

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;  
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf earth's frame;  
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;  
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936  
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893  
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

\*Eucharistic Prayer

\*The Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:  
Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
        on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those  
    who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

Communion Hymn



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

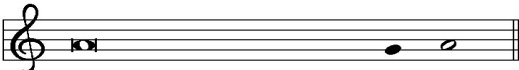


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

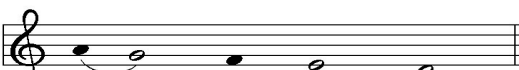


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

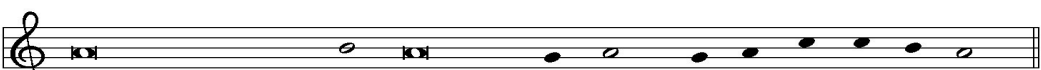
\*Kyrie



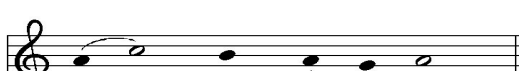
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



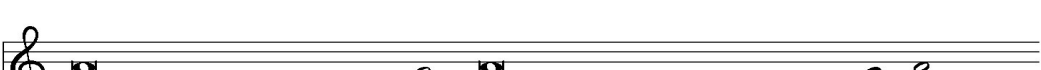
Lord, have mer - cy.



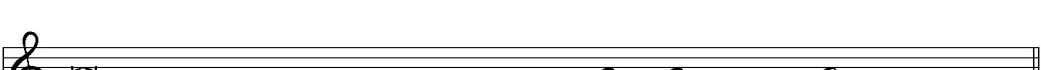
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



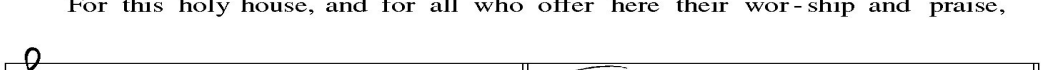
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus**

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.

Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

**\*Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW # 845**



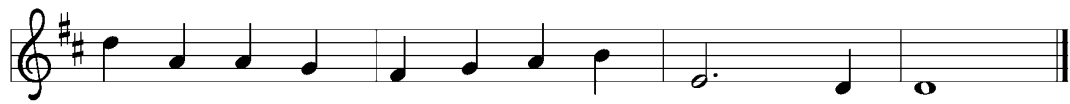
1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

**\*Offertory Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen.**

**Children’s Moment**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11**

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 145:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my <sup>l</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>l</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup> **Every day <sup>l</sup> will I bless you**  
**and praise your name forev- <sup>l</sup> er and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly <sup>l</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>l</sup> to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works <sup>l</sup> to another**  
**and shall de- <sup>l</sup> clare your power.**
- <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>l</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>l</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup> **They shall tell of the might of your <sup>l</sup> wondrous acts,**  
**and I will re- <sup>l</sup> count your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of <sup>l</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully <sup>l</sup> of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD is gracious and full <sup>l</sup> of compassion,**  
**slow to anger and abounding in <sup>l</sup> steadfast love.**

great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 the People

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

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your

## Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation



**\*Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

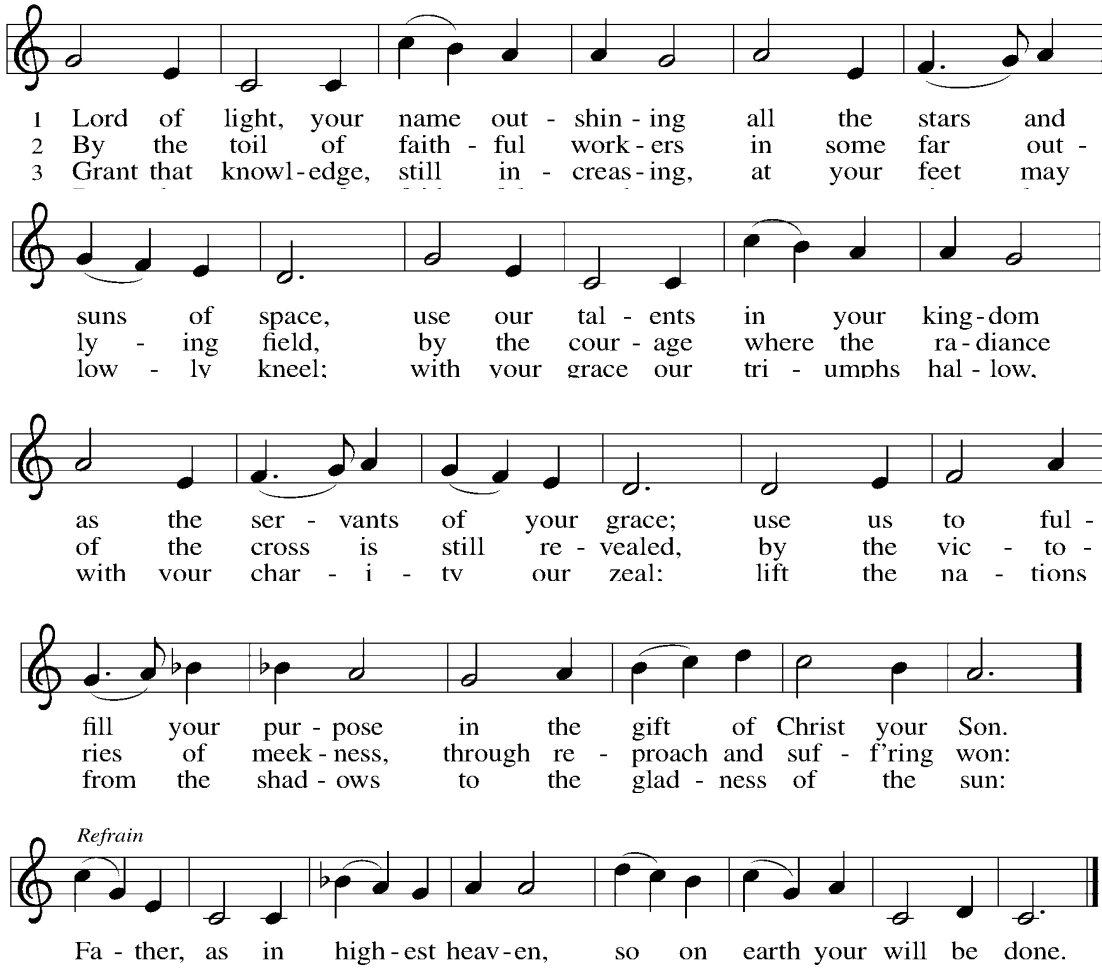
The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn of the Day: Lord of Light ELW # 688**



Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.  
Music: ABBOT’S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
Text © Union of Welsh Independents  
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.