

# Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost



8:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP



*Ezekiel, Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308-11.*

**PRELUDE**

# WELCOME

## CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God...

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done your**

**will, but will say that we did. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of  
the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”*

Verse 1

Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.

Verse 2

All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.

### Verse 3

Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

### Verse 4

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

**GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray... ...in Jesus Christ we pray,

C Amen

## FIRST READING

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear

now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the

Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God.

Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

R     The word of the Lord.

C     **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*Philippians 2:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you

that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always  
obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much

more now in my absence, work out your own  
salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who  
is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to  
work for his good pleasure.

R     The word of the Lord.  
C     **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel...

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

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you

doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not

know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the

kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P     The Gospel of our Lord.

C     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON



# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Lord, Whose Love  
in Humble Service”*

Verse 1

Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

Verse 2

Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.

### Verse 3

As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

### Verse 4

Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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 INTERCESSION**

**P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

- Beth Kack (recovering from open heart surgery)
- Darlene Schuler (mother of Elaine Sandquist, in hospice with late stage dementia)
- Dennis Ladwig (friend of many in the congregation, recovering from broken knees and femur)

- Elaine Ladwig (friend of many in the congregation, receiving Chemotherapy for Autoimmune Disorder, recovering from Covid)
- Karen Kupfer (cancer, mother of Ronda Bursell)
- Marie Seeman (breast cancer, recovering from surgery)
- Mary Leonard (aunt of Ashley Grams, colon cancer and urothelial carcinoma)
- MaryJo Hennen (friend of Arlyss Hovland, diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia)

- Michael Weiss (diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma)
- Pastor Delwayne Hahn (former St. Stephen Interim Pastor, being treated for acute myeloid leukemia)
- Phil Green (nephew of Roger Green, has ALS)
- Rachel Hirdler (niece of Sandy Hoffbeck, continuing chemotherapy for Osteosarcoma)
- Steve Knutson (on going treatment for Multiple Myeloma)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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; and 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.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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.

## SENDING HYMN

*“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*

### Verse 1

God be with you till we meet again;  
by good counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet.)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

Verse 2

God be with you till we meet again;  
holy wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet again,)  
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)  
till we meet, (till we meet.)  
till we meet, (till we meet again.)  
God be with you till we meet again.

Verse 3

God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord  
**C We will! Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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