



Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 20th, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

8 am and 11 am Worship Service

As We Gather

On the surface, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems wrong. Shouldn't the worker receive the wages he or she deserves for his or her time and labor? It offends our sense of fair play that one who worked less should receive the same as one who worked more. If you only focus on the perspective of the laborer, that might seem true, but if you focus on the generosity of the vineyard owner, you get a very different perspective. God's mercy is not the reward for our labor, but a pure gift of grace given to those who deserve none of His kindness. When you begin to look at this parable from that perspective, God's abundant generosity becomes clear. The Lord does what none of us would do - forgives all our sins, no matter how great, and bestows upon us mercy and salvation we did nothing to earn and could never deserve. How can anyone begrudge Him such generosity?

Welcome and Announcements

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LSB 807 (vs. 1-4)

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries,
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
With "Jesus Christ be praised!"

No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the _eternal Word
The _eternal psalm is heard:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins.

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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 all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Amen.

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LSB 807 (vs. 5)

Sing, suns and stars of space,
Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!”
God’s whole creation o’er,
Both now and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Seek the LORD while He may be found.)

⁶ “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let 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. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

(Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.)

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Do you begrudge the Lord's generosity?)

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’

⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.

⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’

⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.

¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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 worker as I give to you.

¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
“There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
“Here am I, send me, send me!”

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Message

Vicar Micah Cumming

Prayers of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna. hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He

That cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the ☩ Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

LSB 570 (vs 1-4)

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, especially in times of challenge or persecution, and grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our everlasting High Priest, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

Amen

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

“Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

LSB 917

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Contemporary Service

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song of Praise

Invocation

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

(Seek the LORD while He may be found.)

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not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

(Do you begrudge the Lord's generosity?)

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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.

Praise Music

Message

Vicar Micah Cumming

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins.

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

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Amen.

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

Amen.

Holy Communion

Distribution Song(s)

Prayers

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

Closing Song of Praise

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Acknowledgments

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