



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Come to the Table

text inspired by Shirley Murray text/tune John Perovich

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** The Lord is near the brokenhearted; He delivers those who are discouraged. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,
C **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**

- P** God's saints lack nothing. God's people are delivered from all their afflictions. In mercy, Almighty God 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 you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

Peace of the Lord

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

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn

LSB 829 Christ the Eternal Lord

Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024
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Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

L 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.

G Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

A The Old Testament reading is from the fifty-fifth chapter of the book of Isaiah.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 27:1-9

L The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

G When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

L Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

G One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

L For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

G Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

L Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

G “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

L Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

G Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

G as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

A The Epistle reading is from the first chapter of the book of Philippians.

¹² I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my

speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.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 for you.²⁵ 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,²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.²⁷ 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,²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

L Fear the LORD, you his saints,

C for those who fear him lack nothing!

L Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the LORD delivers them out of them all.

Gospel Acclamation

C Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Halle, halle, halle_lujah!

Hallelujah! Halle_lujah!

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Verse

P Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith.

C And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ “For 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 the usual daily wage, 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 the usual daily wage.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.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 the usual daily wage?’ 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** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LSB 894 For the Fruits of His Creation

For the fruits of His creation,
Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev'ry nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
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Apostles' Creed

- L** We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.
C 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.

Blessing of Those Celebrating Birthdays

All who are celebrating a birthday this month are invited to come forward for a prayer and a blessing.

P Loving and gracious Heavenly Father, you have given us our bodies, souls, and all that we have. We thank you for the great gift of life that you have given to us, and especially to these your dearly loved people. We thank you for them and for being able to share life with them. As they celebrate another year of life, we ask your blessing and favor to be upon them. Increase their joy in life lived with you. Grow their trust in your presence and promises. And give them zeal for joining you in your mission in this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Loving and Gracious God, you have gathered us together to be your people in this world. You give us your Holy Spirit, your word, and the sacraments. Work through Your means of grace to transform our lives, so that they would always show your love and forgiveness and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, embolden our congregation and all sister churches throughout the world to confess the truth steadfastly and to witness boldly to our only Savior, Jesus Christ. Give us joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Gracious God we pray for our partners in ministry in this community, for Gathering Lambs, Luther Towers, and Interfaith Housing Alliance for the Poor, bless them and the good work they do in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty Lord, bless this nation and all people in their rightful callings. Grant that we may serve our neighbors in love, and that all authorities would exercise their callings with humility and wisdom on behalf of the defenseless. Bless and protect those who serve and care for us. Especially we lift up to you are military, police, firefighters, first responders, emts and emergency room workers. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, the mourning or the dying *[especially those we love who you're your healing and care that we name before you now, out loud or in our hearts_____]*. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, O Lord, those who will receive Your true body and blood from this altar. Prepare us to receive them worthily in repentance and faith for the forgiveness of our sins and the healing of our bodies. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to you, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- L** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the witness of the faithful who lived and died in Christ. We thank and praise you for the sure and certain hope that at the last we, too, may be joined with them in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Lord, grant that, in Christ, we may seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near, forsaking all wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering

- C** **Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,**
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
Time to share our gifts and say,
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

Offertory Prayer

- L** Giving God, You provide us with all we need to support our bodies and lives. Your abundance and provision will never fail or leave us lacking. Allow Your generosity to inspire our generosity. Accept the offerings that we give in the various ways that we give them throughout the week. Increase and grow our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,
- C** **Amen.**

Offertory

- C** **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

- P** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:
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.

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

LSB 624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.

This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.

The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.

But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.

The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.

The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.

With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

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Distribution Hymn

LSB 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

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The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

G Amen.

Thank the Lord

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

- L** Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
C Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
C Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.
- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
C As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.
C We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:
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

LSB 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“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”?

Some take up His task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God’s Word so richly yields.

For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.

Hearken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

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