

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH***



***Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday, September 20th, 2026***

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

CALL TO WORSHIP *688 Lord of Light Vs 1*

- 1 Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space, use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace; use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son:

Refrain

Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage 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. 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.

ENTRANCE HYMN 685 *Take My Life, That I May Be*

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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.

KYRIE ELW 155

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest ELW Setting 3 Pg 139*

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth

All: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . 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.

FIRST READING *a reading from Jonah 3:10—4:1-11*

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When 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. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² 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. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ 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." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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?" This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING *a reading from Philippians 1:21-30*

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

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, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. 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 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. 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW 142 Setting 3*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel *according to Matthew 20:1-16*

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."

This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *695 As Saints of Old*

- 1 As saints of old their first fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;
so we today first fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
- 2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

APOSTLE'S 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

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

a brief silence.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Strengthen all those in this congregation who serve the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Encourage any who cannot work, that 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: 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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN *182 Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name,
and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 4 Pg 153*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father; endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and at the end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our
prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail in the fullness of
faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.
One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God Setting 3 Page 146*

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS *659 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *208 Praise To You, O God of Mercy!*

**Praise to you, O God of Mercy, Thanks be to You forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly, Thanks be to You forever!
Thanks be to you forever!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, Father and † Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *845 Voices Raised to You*

- 1 Voices raised to you we offer; tune them, God, for songs of praise.
 Hearts and hands we bring in tribute for your gifts through all our days.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!
- 2 All creation joins to praise you; earth and sky your works display.
 Art and music, gifts you lend us, we return to you today.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! God, creator, source of life!
- 3 Christ, the song of love incarnate, touching earth with heaven's grace,
 for your living, suff'ring, dying, for your rising, hear our praise!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, redeemer, Lord of life!
- 4 Spirit, flaming through creation, kindle faith within each heart.
 Lift our voices high in chorus; through our hands your love impart.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Spirit, helper, breath of life!
- 5 How can any praise we offer measure all the thanks we owe?
 Take our hearts and hands and voices—gifts of love we can bestow.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God.

