



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 - 10:45 AM

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “Salvation Unto Us Has Come” (vv. 1, 8-10) *Hymn 555*
[[10:45] Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.]

***INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Page 203*

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** “Glory to God in the Highest” *Page 204*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM [10:45]

“God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It”
(Trinity Bells)

John Behnke

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 1:12, 19-26

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel... ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹“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. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

***SERMON HYMN**

“Seek Ye First”

Hymn 712

THE SERMON

“God’s Grace Isn’t Fair”

Matthew 20:1-16

***PROFESSION OF FAITH - 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.**

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

*PREFACE

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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

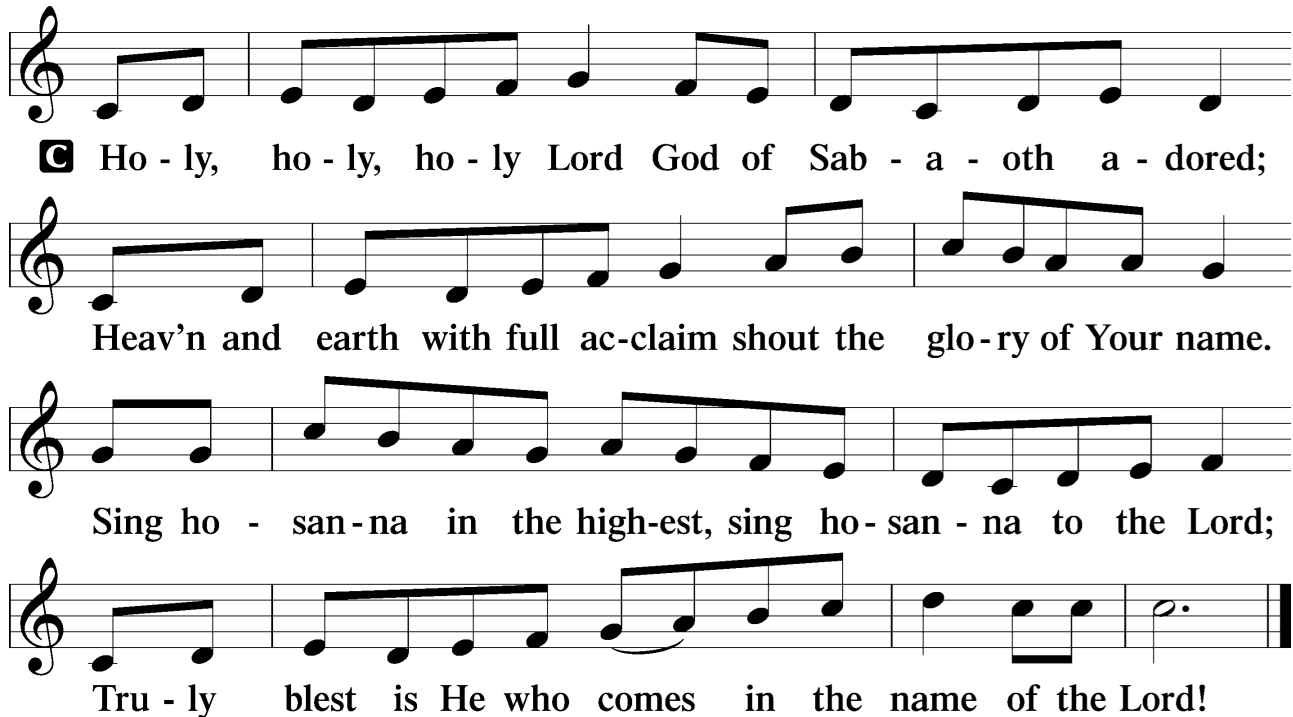
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*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.

*AGNUS DEI

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1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"
"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Hymn 594
Hymn 738

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS AND CONSECRATION FOR THE LORD'S WORK

***THE BENEDICTION** (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

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Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

Hymn 680

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Preacher
Organist
Communion Deacons
Lector
Usher/Greeter Team

The Rev. Steven M. Braun
Thomas Schulteis
Roger Walker, Jessica Wittcop
Pat Wittcop
Jim & Linda Campbell

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

Preacher/Celebrant
Liturgist
Organist
Sound Technician
Elder on Duty
Communion Deacons

Lectors
Crucifer
Acolyte
Greeters
Ushers

The Rev. Steven M. Braun
Vicar Harrison Hulse
Thomas Schulteis
Rodney Steffen
Janet Hostler
Jerry Carter, Aleah Hearn,
Janet Hostler, Sue Ramer
Dr. Ken Rogers, Sharon Fields
Chase Carbone
IV Richardson
Joe & Carrie Carbone
Janice Graydon, Douglas Hall, Ernie Harben,
Bonnie Petersilge, Rob Petersilge, Carl Rod

CREDITS

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