

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL/SPECIAL MUSIC

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW 733

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth..
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Built On a Rock"

Jay Althouse

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual livingkindness 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. Amen

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

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?

A reading from Jonah.

When 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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 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.

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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 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. 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?"

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 145:1-8

Please read the psalm responsively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING

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.

A reading from Philippians.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

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 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. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia"

ELW 174

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 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.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE 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.

THE BLESSING OF QUILTS

Gracious God, as we extend our hands toward these quilts, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ."

We celebrate being the children of God.

We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these quilts: donations of materials, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the squares, design the patterns, sew the tops, iron the fabrics, make backs and fillers, tie and stitch the bindings, and pack the quilts.

We celebrate generosity.

We give thanks for the fellowship of all who have worked together to make these quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

We celebrate community.

We send these quilts as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their quilt will be a source of comfort and hope. May each quilt be a symbol of Christ's love to those who weep and a reminder to each recipient that they are a beloved child of God - no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

We celebrate hope.

We remember those who have received our quilts in the past and continue to pray that their lives may be blessed.

We celebrate the gift of life.

We ask for your grace, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, please respond: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

From the goodness of the earth and the work of many hands, we have received much. Let us return our gifts in gratitude, joining God's renewing work in the world.

We offer ourselves and our gifts with joy, that all creation may know justice, peace, and abundant life.

OFFERING / OFFERING HYMN

"Who Am I"

Mark Hall

Verse 1

Who am I that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt
Who am I that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wand'ring heart

Pre-Chorus

Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are

Chorus

I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours

Verse 2

Who am I that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love
And watch me rise again
Who am I that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY

Brenton Brown

Verse

Holy holy God Almighty
Who was and is to come
God of glory You're so worthy
All the saints bow down

Chorus

Holy is Your name in all the earth
Righteous are Your ways so merciful
Everything You've done is just and true
Holy holy God are You (x2)

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory...to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

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. 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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Holy, Holy"

Jim Owens

Verse 1

Holy holy holy holy
Holy holy Lord God Almighty
And we lift our hearts before You
As a token of our love
Holy holy holy holy

Verse 2

Gracious Father gracious Father
We're so blessed to be Your children
Gracious Father
And we lift our heads before You
As a token of our love
Gracious Father gracious Father

Verse 3

Precious Jesus precious Jesus
We're so glad that You've redeemed us
Precious Jesus
And we lift our hands before You
As a token of our love
Precious Jesus precious Jesus

Verse 4

Holy Spirit Holy Spirit
Come and fill our hearts anew
Holy Spirit
And we lift our voice before You
As a token of our love
Holy Spirit Holy Spirit

Verse 5

Hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah
And we lift our hearts before You
As a token of our love
Hallelujah hallelujah

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup...in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace - Creator, † Christ, and Spirit - bless you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL **“Great is the Lord”** **Michael W. Smith**

Great is the Lord
He is holy and just
By His power we trust in His love
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love

Great are You Lord
And worthy of glory
Great are You Lord
And worthy of praise
Great are You Lord
I lift up my voice
I lift up my voice
Great are You Lord

Great is the Lord
And worthy of glory
Great is the Lord
And worthy of praise
Great is the Lord
Now lift up your voice
Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord

Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord

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SENDING

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE **“Go Now”** **Hans Peterson, Larry Olson**
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WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:
Ushers:
Lector: *Amy Boyles*
Communion Assistants:
Altar Guild: *Debbie Guenther, Becky Glaser*
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
Altar Flowers:

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:
Ushers:
Lector: *Mary Heider*
Communion Assistants:
Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung, Amy Boyles*
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
Altar Flowers: *In Memory of Loved Ones, From LouAnn Gayan*