



September 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

- ♪ 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 th’ eternal Word Th’ 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!”
- ♪ 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!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 807—Text: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Wurzburg 1828;
tr. Robert S. Bridges 1844-1930; Public domain.*

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Almighty God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess to You that we have sinned. We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Because of the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us all that is past and grant us the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.

A Time of Silence

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 you 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.

Hymn of Praise *Music: “Hark the Herald Angels,” Hymn 380 “Glory Be to God on High”*

♪ “Glory be to God on high!” This is now our joyful cry. Peace to all who live on earth.

Grace and favor for new birth. You we praise and glorify. Worship You, O Lord most high!

Gracious Father, heav’nly King. To Your name alone we sing:

Praise the glory of Your name, Now and evermore the same!

♪ Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, Sole-begotten, holy One. Born on earth from realms on high,

Born true man for us to die. Lamb of God, You take away This world’s sin:

Grant peace we pray. With the Spirit, You alone Are most high, O God the Son.

And the Father, God above. Praise we now Your glorious love.

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Prayer

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.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear....

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.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged 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.

Gradual Hymn

“Beautiful Savior”

♪ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

♪ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

♪ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

♪ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904; Public domain

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 20:1–16

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

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.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’” ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

- ♪ Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.
- ♪ Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.
- ♪ Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv'n to you”?
- ♪ Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 851 - Text: Eliza S. Alderson 1818-89; Public domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“Who's Who!”

Matthew 20:1–16

Offering and Musical Offering

Preface *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn *Music:*

“When I Survey”, Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heaven and earth Your glory acclaim
Sing hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes to us!

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei *Music: “When I Survey”, Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425*

- ♪ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

- ♪ Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.
- ♪ King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.
- ♪ Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.
- ♪ At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 621—Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.;
tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.; Text: Public domain*

“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

- ♪ Thy body, giv’n for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain
~ Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!
- ♪ With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in Thee. ~ Lord, ...
- ♪ Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. ~ Lord,...
- ♪ Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e’er is near. ~ Lord,...
- ♪ My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. ~ Lord,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 619— Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.
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Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Seek Ye First”

♪ Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

♪ Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

♪ Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev’ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Allelu, alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 712 -Text & Tune: Karen Lafferty b.1948;
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Postlude