



September 24, 2023

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

- ♪ Oh, that I had a thousand voices To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, What great things God has done for me.
- ♪ O all you pow'rs that He implanted, Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted! Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.
- ♪ You forest leaves so green and tender That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender, You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.
- ♪ All creatures that have breath and motion, That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion, Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite Declare the wonders of His might.
- ♪ Creator, humbly I implore You To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You, Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing Eternal anthems to my King.

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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,

That Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and
guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

Psalm 67:1-5, 7

Confession and Absolution

Humble yourselves before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all
my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your
present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word,
and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and**

death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life. *A Time of Silence*

God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

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.

The 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 presence and care that confidently we may live according to Your Word, learning of You at all times and ever growing in Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm Please Be Seated

Psalm 27:1–9

The Lord is my light and my salvation; who shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

My adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

Though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

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 lift me high upon a rock.

And now my head shall be 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.

Hear O Lord, when I cry aloud;

Be gracious to me and answer me!

You have said, "Seek my face."

My heart says to You, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

Hide not Your face from me. Turn not Your servant away in anger, O You who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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.

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

“To God Be the Glory”

♪ To God be the glory, great things He has done,

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

~Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He has done!

♪ O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!

To ev'ry believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes,

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. ~Praise...

♪ Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. ~Praise....

*The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration, Hymn 66- Text: Fanny J. Crosby 1820-1915; Tune: William H. Doane 1832-1915;
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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.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message Please Be Seated

The Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

- ♪ Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- ♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- ♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- ♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- ♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744 -Text: John Newton 1725-1807, vv. 1-4; A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, v. 5
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Proclamation of the Word

“Deserving Destruction Yet God Grants Grace”

Matthew 20:1–16

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition concludes with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Jesus, Shall Reign”

- ♪ Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- ♪ To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- ♪ People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.
- ♪ Blessings abound where'er He reigns: The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.
- ♪ Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 832-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: John C. Hatton d.1793;
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Postlude