

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

Outdoor Worship Service



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.



Jays & Concerns

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C. Amen

P. Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Steadfast and faithful God,

C. you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,

forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

P. Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven

C. Amen



Gathering Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Prayer of the Day

- P. Let us pray
- C. 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. Amen



First Reading

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Back of Bulletin

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



Psalm Psalm 145:1-8 Read in Unison

I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.



Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

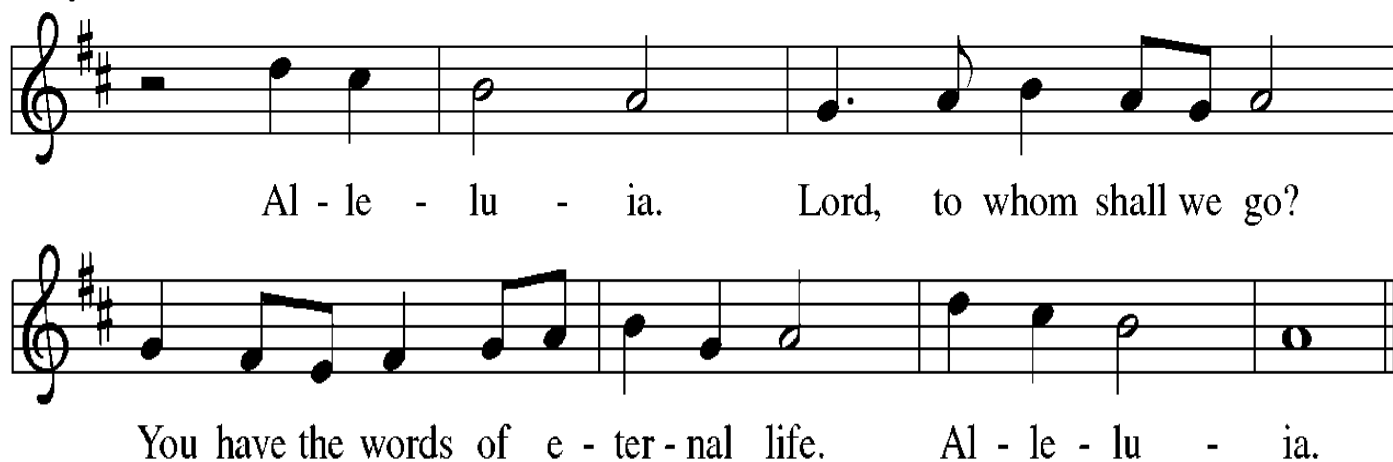
To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since 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 I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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 are in no way intimidated by your opponents. 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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter twenty.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

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



'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

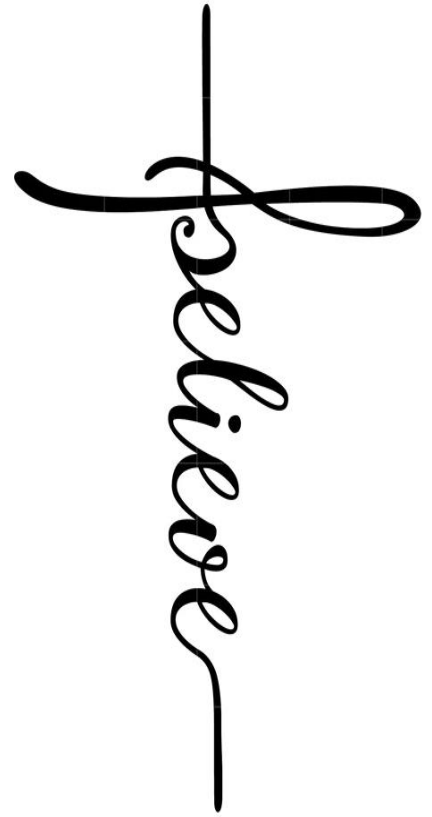
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession

A. Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

P. Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.



The Peace

P. Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Offering

Anthem

The Sea Walker

Chorus: To see that Sea Walker, that Blind Man Healer,
That Leper-Cleansin' man from Galilee,
I'll see that Soul Saver,
The One who set me free.
Take my hand, and follow me.

Let the Vineyards...



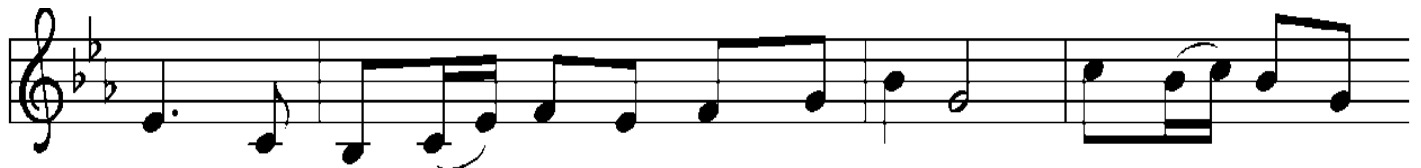
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

- A.** God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C. Amen.**

Eucharistic 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

Invitation to Communion

P. Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

C. Amen.

Do this in
remembrance
of me



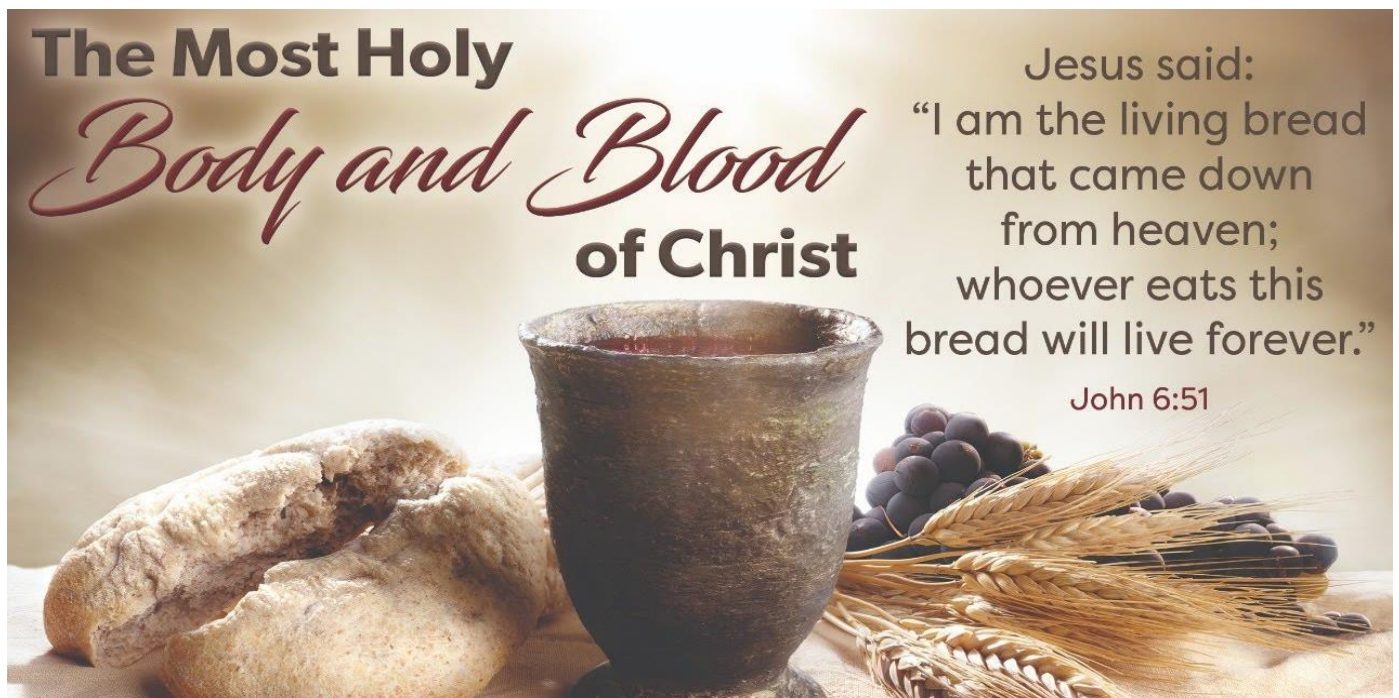
MUSIC

— *for* —

COMMUNION



*Seek Ye First
I'm Speakin' to that Mountain*



Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

A. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C. Amen.

Blessing

P. The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

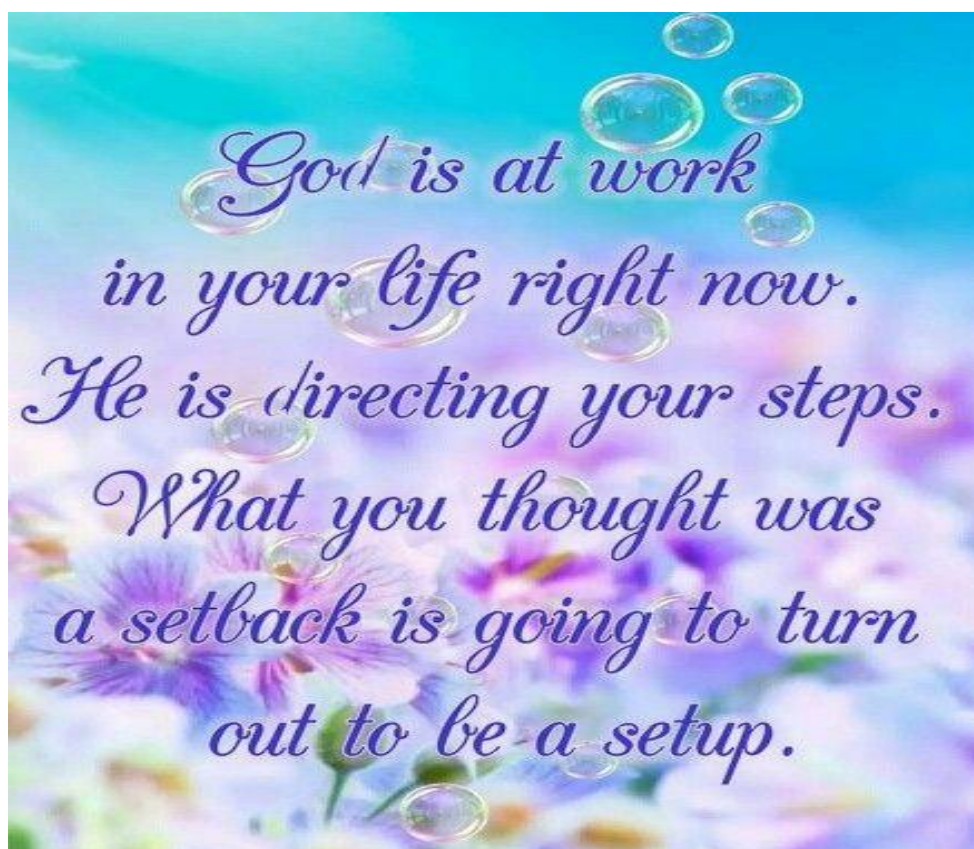
Chorus: Will the Circle Be Unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the Sky, Lord, in the Sky

Dismissal

A. Go in peace.
God is at work in you.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*Please stick around
for our after worship
fellowship Picnic!!*





*Many Thanks
to our
Guest Musicians*

*Willem Lutter
Jessica Kirkland
Joey Pilot
Billy Powell*

**THANK
YOU!**



*Pray for your
Call Committee*

Family of Peg Stamp

Family of Ellis (Tony) Guedel

Family of Tomma Hargraves

Family of Monna Stamm

Forrest Smith – recovering from ablation

Rita's co-worker, Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer

Kathy Hart's brother, Dan – recovering from a stroke

Ginny King's sister, Mary Anna Strickler – broken hip; hip replacement

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian – deployment to Republic of Niger, West Africa

Tess Andrews' brother, David Van Benschoten

Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care

Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman – recovering

Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda - cancer

Sheryll's friend Tony – terminal cancer

Mr. Smith, neighbor of Carolyn Watkins

Father of Julya Mirro - (Gale's friend)

Holly Hans' sister, Heather House & her family

Linda Hash's brother, Charles Barlow

Linda Hash's sister-in-law, Beth Hash Lennon

Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer

Tim & Rita's sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has returned

Rebecca Swanson's sister in PA – Post Polio Syndrome

Rebecca Swanson's nephew – Dr. David Shaefer

Sheila Dorey – recovering from angioplasty

Diana Havenstein

Rob Havenstein

Donna Hannah – bad fall

Mary Ann Jackson Dayshaun

Jim Powers Sharon Vietri

Jonathan McCoy

Holly Han's mother, Carol Hardy

Andrew Avakian – MS

