

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 • 10:30 A.M.



MORNING PRAYER

RITE II

HYMN 212

"Awake, arise, lift up your voice"

Richmond

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Book of Common Prayer, page 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMNAL S-35

Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

PSALM 145:1-8

Resignation

1 I will exalt and bless your Name

forever, God my King,

And I will bless you every day,

Your praise forever sing.

Great is the LORD, much to be praised,

His greatness has no end;

The declaration of his power

shall age to age extend.

2 I will think on your majesty,

The marvels you have done;

**They shall speak of your wondrous acts,
I will tell of each one.
They shall sing of your righteous deeds,
Your goodness call to mind;
The LORD is gracious, slow to wrath,
Compassionate and kind.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Reader A Reading from the Book of Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Nineveh 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. ¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ 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." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 679 (Canticle 9)

"Surely it is God who saves me"

Thomas Merton

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

²¹ To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 438 (Canticle 15) "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!" Woodlands

THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew 28:1-10

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

THE SERMON

Larry Duffee

Larry served as an Episcopal missionary to the Sudan from 2010 until 2013.

THE APOSTLES' CREED.....96

Officiant and People

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 to the dead.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.....97

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGES A.....97

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;

People **Your saving health among all nations.**
Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY.....234

Officiant Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS 98

Officiant O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR MISSION 101

Officiant Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

People **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Form IV).....388

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for _____, and all others who are preparing for the birth or adoption of a child.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially _____; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We also pray for Hildred Goering, Chris Poole, Jeffrey Reddick, Mac Martin, Jim Facile, Gregory Strickland, Brent Wilson, Jeanette Belfield, Notie Vay Meadows, Bill Harris, Bill Hudgins, Becky Bryan, Albert Ervin, Dwight Johnson, and Boo White.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially _____, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Leader All these prayers we offer up to you, O God, those spoken aloud and those known only to you in our hearts, trusting in your mercy.

People Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Officiant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Anthem *Eden's Song* arr. Mark Schweizer

A memory of Eden stirs, and walks within the warmth of spring. It whispers every hope God has to Life Eternal, listening. Stretch past the gloom of winter's grey, unfurl by faith and not by sight, to touch the light of lengthening day that calls thee forth to green delight. The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share, lift every voice and celebrate, the Living God, who's always there. text: Beverly Easterling

HYMN 432 (vs. 4) "O praise ye the Lord!" *Laudate Dominum*

**O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING.....101

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM.....102

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

People **Amen.**

HYMN 455 "O love of God, how strong and true" *Dunedin*

DISMISSAL.....102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Finale

Alan Viner

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SERVERS

Acolytes Oscar Seale and James Barkley;

Altar Guild Melissa Barker and Kim Wood;

Audiovideo Engineer Bill Walker;

Flower Guild Margy Brantley and Sally Harris;

Greeters Al and Barbara Hicks; **Intercessor** Suzan Duffee;

Musicians The Good Shepherd Choir; Lawrence Goering, organist;

Officiant Larry Duffee;

Readers Paula Stiles and Kim Bayless;

Vestry Counters Barbara Hicks and Corey Folta

VESTRY

Class of 2027
Kenneth Burnette
Barbara Hicks
Jack Miller
John Tobias

Class of 2028
Corey Folta
Heather Seale

Class of 2029
John Barker
Kim Daughtridge
Larry Duffee

Senior Warden Kenneth Burnette
Clerk Gayle Edwards

Junior Warden Heather Seale
Treasurer Jack Miller

STAFF

Lawrence Goering (lgoering@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Organist and Director of Music*
Shewanna Lynch-Manning (director@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Director of the Day School*
Penny Neville (pneville@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Bookkeeper*
Sarah Katherine Rollings (office@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Office Administrator*
The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter (rzartman@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Priest-in-Charge*
For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message
on Becky's mobile phone: 570-259-0671

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**231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.goodshepherdrmt.org (252) 442-1134**

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language – livestreamed at goodshepherdlive.org)

Wednesday Service

12:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)