

SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

8:30 AM

September 20, 2026 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Please stand, as able, where indicated.]

GATHERING

PRELUDE

This Is The Day / High and Exalted

Fitts / Rasmussen

MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP - ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY:

- **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
- **PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND SMART WATCHES**
- **WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY**

[Please stand as you are able]

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King,
Clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice,
All the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice,
And trembles at His voice.

Chorus *How great is our God*
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

And age to age He stands,
And time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb.

Chorus

Bridge **Name above all names,**
Worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing:
How great is our God!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...(silence) 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.

C: Amen.

[Please sit]

WORD

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 should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?

Lector: 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. 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?" 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?"

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:1-8

L: I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

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

L: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.

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

L: I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**C: They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

L: They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**C: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness**

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.

Lector: 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; 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand as you are able]

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

HOLY GOSPEL 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.

P: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

C: **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 the usual daily wage, 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 the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 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 the usual daily wage? 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."

P: The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[Please sit]

SERMON

Pastor Finley

[Please stand as you are able]

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 587

PROFESSION OF FAITH: 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 into hell.
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.**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Merciful Lord God, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose compassion over judgment. Lord in our mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C:** Hear our prayer.

A: Loving Redeemer, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Lord in our mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C:** Hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Lord in our mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C:** Hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, send your loving care to those who feel overburdened, needy in body, soul, or spirit. We especially pray for those who we name silently in our hearts and with our voices now... *(long pause)* ... We ask your mercy, your strength, and your peace for them at all times. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

A: Lord in your mercy. **C:** Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

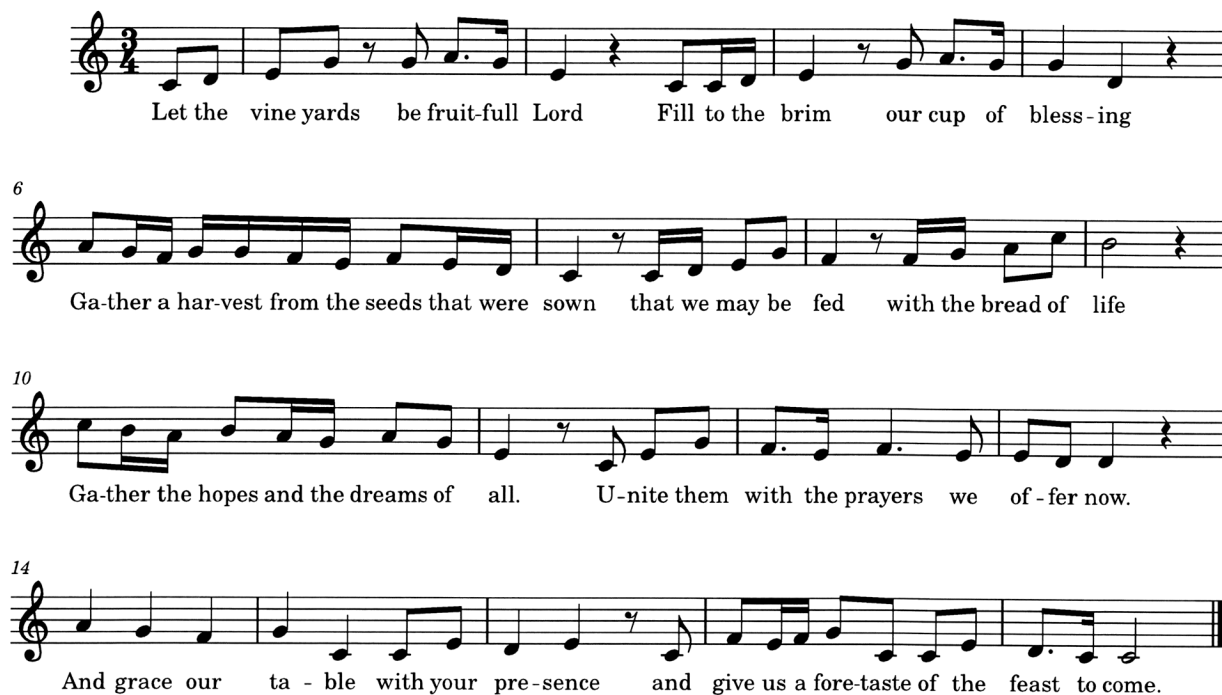
C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards



Let the vine yards be fruit-full Lord Fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing

6
Ga-ther a har-vest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the bread of life

10
Ga-ther the hopes and the dreams of all. U-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now.

14
And grace our ta-ble with your pre-sence and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Arr Chad Watkins

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Arr. Chad Watkins

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of his body and drink of his blood
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with Christ's body and blood
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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 & FRACTURE

P: This is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

C: Lord, give us this bread always.

[Please sit]

LAMB OF GOD

Oh Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the world Oh

Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the whole world Have me-rcy

me-rcy on us. Have me-rcy me-rcy on us.

Arr Chad Watkins

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: INTINCTION AND COMMON CUP

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

[Please stand as you are able]

TABLE BLESSING

P: May this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thankful Thursday is this Thursday, everyone is invited to lunch beginning at noon.**

MINISTRY MINUTE

Team River Runners

Bob Wolsin

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A: Glorify God. Spread the Word.

C: **Love One Another.**

POSTLUDE