



September 27, 2020

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Peace

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Horace Silver

The Introit

Jesus! Name of wondrous love!
Name all other names above!
Unto which must every knee
bow in deep humility.

Words: William Walsham How

Music: *Louez Dieu*, from *Les cent cinquante Pseaumes de David*, 1564, alt.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship God who provides for us.

People: **Even though we whine and complain, God hears our cries.**

Leader: Lift your voices in praise, for God has come to comfort you.

People: **Thanks be to God who forgives and heals our wounded souls.**

Leader: Come, celebrate God's steadfast love.

People: **Open our hearts, O Lord,**
and let us truly listen to your words. Amen.

The Hymn No. 340

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.

3. Come ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. **Refrain**

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

2. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh. **Refrain**

4. Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him. **Refrain**

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The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord,
and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment.**

**We really want to serve,
but we are very weak
and are easily drawn away by cares and fears.**

**We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom
but find ourselves pulled this way and that
by other demands on our time and energy.**

**Forgive us, O Lord,
when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you.**

**Heal our spirits
and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples.**

For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer

The Words of Assurance

God knows our hearts and our spirits.

God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness.

Know that it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being.

Rejoice, for God is with you always. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalter pages 799-800 with response

Psalm 78:1-4, 9-20, 32b-38a

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Response:

Ps. 78:1
Timothy E. Kimbrough



We shall lis - ten, Lord, to your teach-ing, and heed the words of your mouth.

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
- 2 **I will open my mouth in a parable;**
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
- 3 things that we have heard and known,
that our forebears have told us.

4 **We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, the might,
and wonders God has wrought.**

Response

9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
turned back on the day of battle.
10 **They did not keep God's covenant,
but refused to walk according to God's law.**
11 They forgot the deeds of the Lord,
the miracles that God had shown them.
12 **The Lord wrought marvels in the sight of their forebears
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,**
13 the Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap,
14 **led them with a cloud in the daytime,
and all the night with a fiery light,**
15 cleft rocks in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep,
16 **made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

Response

17 Yet they sinned still more against God,
rebelling against the Most High in the desert.
18 They tested God in their heart
by demanding the food they craved.
19 They spoke against God, saying
“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?
20 **Indeed! God struck the rock so that water
gushed out and streams overflowed!**
**Can God also give bread,
or provide meat for the people?”**

Response

32 They did not believe in his wonders,
33 so God made their days like a breath,
turned their years into terror.
34 **Whenever God slew them, they would inquire after God,
repent, and seek God earnestly.**
35 They remembered that God was their rock,
the Most High God their redeemer,
36 **whom they flattered with their mouths,
to whom they lied with their tongues.**
37 Their heart was not steadfast toward God;
they were not true to God's covenant.
38 **Yet God, being compassionate,
forgave their iniquity,
and did not destroy them.**

Response

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The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn No. 2030

The First Song of Isaiah

FIRST SONG

Refrain:

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

Choir:

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, give thanks to the Lord
and call upon his name.

Refrain

Choir:

Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

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Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.
People:



The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People:



The Sermon

God, I've Got a Bone to Pick with You!

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

In nomine Jesu (At the Name of Jesus) Jacob Gallus-Handl

In nomine Jesu omne genuflectatur,
coelestium, terrestrium, et infernorum,
et omnis lingua confiteatur,
quia Dominus noster Jesus Christus,
in gloria est Dei Patris.

At the name of Jesus all should genuflect,
in heaven, on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess,
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 648

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

HYFRYDOL

1. God the Spirit, guide and guardian,
windsped flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets,
sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people
fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles
to your church in every place.
2. Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,
word made flesh, love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant,
friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all people
learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion
shown through word and deed and prayer.
3. Great Creator, life-bestower,
truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy,
giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness,
so may those the church exalts

oversee her life steadfastly
yet not overlook her faults.

4. Triune God, mysterious being,
undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom,
greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings
your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting
may give glory to your name.

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The Benediction

The Choral Response

Jesus! Name of priceless worth
to the fallen of the earth,
for the promise that it gave,
“Jesus shall his people save.”

Words: William Walsham How

Music: *Louez Dieu*, from *Les cent cinquante Pseaumes de David*, 1564, alt.

The Postlude

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Wilbur Held

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We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singers:	Emily Downey, Lynn Kotrady Joel Coreas, Sam Cook

Scriptures

Exodus 17:1-7

Water from the Rock

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Philippians 2:1-13

Imitating Christ’s Humility

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Shining as Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father^[a] went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.

³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.