



GRACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH • SCHOOL



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 - 5:00 PM
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 - 10:45 AM**

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” *arr. L. Larson*
(Trinity Bells)

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” *Hymn 849*

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.**

***THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Page 203*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Leader: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, and call upon Him in prayer

and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all yours sins. 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.

People: Amen.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Gloria in Excelsis”

Page 204



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. “A - men!” our glad re - ply.

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28, 32

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. ²⁷But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. ²⁸Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die... ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others... ¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life - in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew , the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism - where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men’ - we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

[10:45] CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

***SERMON HYMN**

“May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

Hymn 698

**May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill And do on earth our Father’s will
As angels do above; Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all Thy children and obey The law of Christian love.**

**So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace adore, Thy pow’r confess,
From sin and strife to flee. One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.**

**Spirit of life, of love and peace, Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live, In joyful hope to die.**

THE SERMON

***CONFESSION OF FAITH - NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

*WORDS OF PREPARATION

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S 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.

*AGNUS DEI

Page 210



You take the sin of the world a - way;
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
(Trinity Bells)

arr. L. Larson

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymn 686

**Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
 Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
 Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

**I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
let me walk close to Thee.**

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it Jesus is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**Thro' this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. (Refrain)**

**When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to
Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. (Refrain)**

(Worshippers are self-dismissed to exit after communing.)

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

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| The Preacher | Vicar Michael Duffy |
| The Organist | Wynn Bonner |
| Communion Deacon | Roger Walker |
| The Lector | Jan Struck |
| The Usher/Greeter Team | Chuck Smith, Bill Smith |

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

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| The Preacher | Vicar Michael Duffy |
| The Celebrant/Liturgist | The Rev. Charles T. Reich |
| The Organist | Wynn Bonner |
| The Sound Technician | Rodney Steffen |
| The Elder on Duty | Lou Marinelli |
| The Communion Deacons | Krista Bernthal, Jeff Wittcop |
| The Lectors | Cynthia Butt, Carl Locke |
| The Welcome Team Greeter | Judy Hinsch |
| The Welcome Team Ushers | Donna Enzor, Steve Griffith, Carl Rod, Larry Walker |

Acknowledgments

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