

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026



So the **LAST**
will be
FIRST
and the **FIRST**
LAST.

Matthew 20:1-16

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

The Divine Service

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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AS WE GATHER

In our minds, justice seems strong while mercy appears weak. In reality, mercy is stronger than justice and greater in every way. While justice may seem appealing to us, what we seek from God is not fairness or equity but mercy. Mercy is what must be taught to our sinful hearts, and for this reason, it remains the higher or greater path. Justice we can understand and reason, but mercy requires God to become flesh in His Son, to suffer and die as the Innocent One for our sins, and to rise to bestow upon us grace and mercy we neither earned nor deserve. Such mercy is a scandal to us and can often be an offense to those who do not realize the magnitude of its gift. Today, we ask the Lord to open our eyes so that we may acknowledge and rejoice in His great gift of mercy and pardon in Christ and walk worthy of this grace every day.

Prelude

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

C Amen.

Processional Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 783 sts. 1–4



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.



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.**

Kyrie

A *In peace, in peace...*

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

A *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the... Refrain*

A *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the... Refrain*

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You have not dealt with us in justice but in mercy, giving Your only Son into our death and raising Him to deliver us to everlasting life. Help us so to know the riches of Your grace that we may not begrudge You Your scandalous generosity but depend upon it for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Rite of Holy Baptism Chole Rose and Luna Rosa Tanner (11:00 a.m.)

“This is a Joyous Happy Day”

This is a Joyous Happy Day.
We celebrate Your gift of life.
Christ is with us. Joy surrounds us.
Christ takes our sin and sets us free;
He fills our lives with endless life.
Christ is with us. Christ unites us.
Praise our Maker, praise the Spirit, Praise Christ Jesus.



The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . ¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Processional

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" LSB 821 sts. 1-2, 4

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Sermon

"That's Not Fair"

Pastor Scott Henze

☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

*Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." Congregation responds, "**Hear our prayer**"*

Offering **"How Can I Keep from Singing"** Adult Choir, 11:00 a.m.

Offertory Prayer

P God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 208



The Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.**

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)



Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the way of mer - cy and
world:
love. have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.



Hymns during Distribution "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" LSB 596



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
out ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and
makes you whole
And then in death completes you.

6 So use it well!
You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

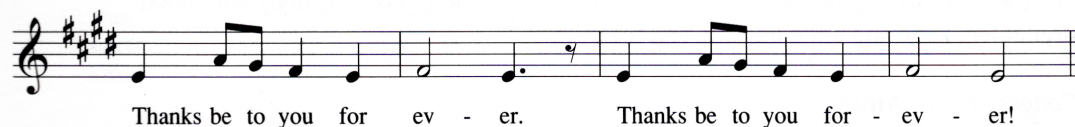
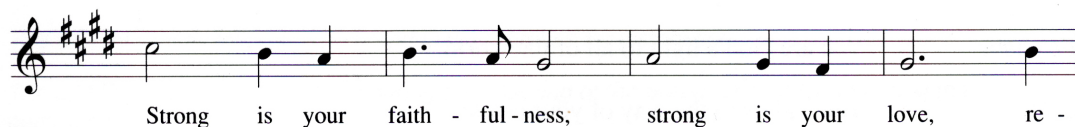
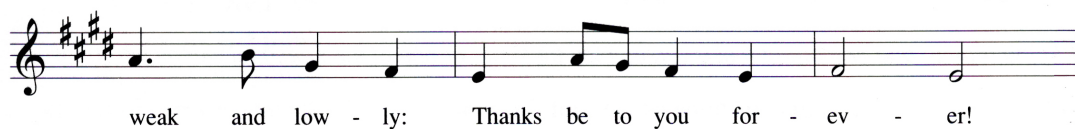
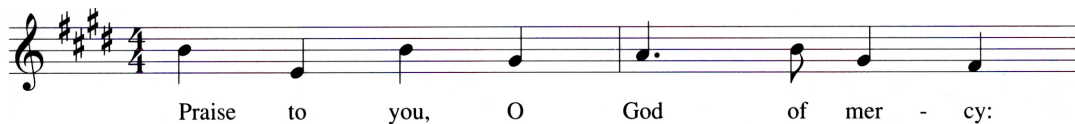


Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.



Closing of the Table

Post-communion canticle



Post-Communion Prayer

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Preschool Minute

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” LSB 827 *sts. 1–2, 4*



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call-ing, “Who will go and work to - day?
2 Some take up His task in morn-ing, To their Lord re - spond-ing soon;
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com-ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har-vests wait-ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?”
Some are called in heat of mid-day, Oth - ers late in af - ter-noon;
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de-scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an-swer, glad - ly say - ing, “Here am I, send me, send me”?
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God’s Word so rich - ly yields.
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Prayer Support

If you want to be lifted up in prayer, our prayer team is here to pray for you after the worship service. You can meet with them at the Communion Rail.

Dismissal

P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

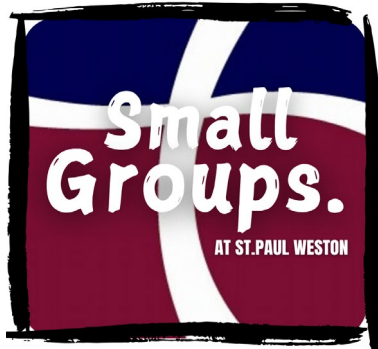
C **Thanks be to God!**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Investing for Time and Eternity

"... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moth nor rust destroys,
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:20-21).



Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL