



Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ, Amen.

L: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be, ELW 583

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;

Continued on next page



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu_a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

GREETING

L: 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

L: 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.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ 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. ^{4:1} 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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 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 persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

L: Word of God, Word of Life:

C: **Thanks, be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

L: The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ 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.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 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.’
¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.



SERMON

Reverend Bethany Ketchem

SONG OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, ELW 587



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us...

Each petition ends with:

L: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: ...We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus / arr. Robert Edgar Horton

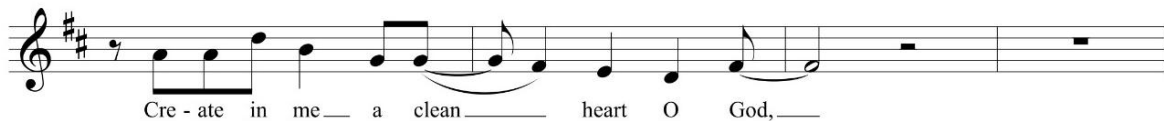
Handbell Choir

OFFERING RESPONSE

Create In Me a Clean Heart O God



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OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: ALL: Leader: 3

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts.

ALL: Leader:

We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Mmmm Mmmm

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, through our Savior, Je-sus Christ, who on this day over came death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. So, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY HOLY

Sing each line twice

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might

2. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho-san - na in the high - est

3. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world; _____

have mer - cy on us. _____ Lamb of

God you take a-way the sin of the world; _____ have mer -

- cy on us. _____ Lamb of God you take a-way the

sin of the world; _____ grant us peace,

Optional Repeat

grant us peace, _____ grant us peace. _____

COMMUNION SONG

Let Us Break Bread Together, ELW 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

L: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C. Amen

L: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C. Amen

L: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever..

C. Amen

SENDING SONG

Rise Up, O Saints of God!, ELW 669



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church Community Meal-Packing Event.

Make Meals. Make Friends. Make A Difference!

Join Us On Saturday, October 3

Help pack meals for families and children in need in our community at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church! We're coming together to pack nutritious meals for local food shelves, and we need 200 volunteers (100 per session) to lend a hand. Bring your family, friends, or come on your own. Every meal packed helps support neighbors facing food insecurity.

Two Shifts Available: 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

No Cost | All Ages Welcome! | Pack With Family & Friends!

Sign up at <https://mealsfromtheheart.org/gustavus/>

The Missions Team

As we head into fall and consider the harvest season, we thank the Lord for all His blessings upon us. The Missions Team is holding a Fall Harvest Food Drive to support the North St. Paul Food Shelf. Please bring your shelf stable foods to church for collection from September 13-October 11. If you're not sure what to get, consider protein that comes in cans (beans and meats are always in need), rice, pasta, soups, and so on. Oftentimes, people with food insecurity are unable to splurge on things for celebrations, so a box cake mix, candles, etc. are nice to get. Vegetable oil, soy sauce, hot sauce and ketchup are also items in constant demand. Anything you contribute will be greatly appreciated!

Prayers & Praises of the People:

- Prayers for Sherry and Jeff Pasket for their continued care.
- Prayers for Sharon Peterson as she continues to recover.
- Prayers for Kathi Kirchoff: prayers for her continued treatment.
- Prayers for healing for Judy Koza.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor	Rev. Bethany Ketchem
Worship & Music Director	Jeremy Mattson
Director of Choir and Handbells	Alex Carlson
Soundboard & Livestream	Beth Renfors
Lector	Jane Koza

Lessons for next Sunday, September 27:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Matthew 21:23-32

Next week's lector: Dianne Deerks



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