

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



To our Guests: Welcome!

Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

On entering—

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

During the service—

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

During communion—

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a cup from the basket, remove it from its bag, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the cup and bag in the receptacle as you return to your place.

As you leave—

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 8:30 & 10 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude “What God Ordains Is Good Indeed,” Johann Walther

Confession and Forgiveness

Remain seated

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

C Amen.

P Hear the testimony of John, our Lord’s apostle: “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.”

A Let us pray. Most merciful God, 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.

P Is this also your prayer? If so, say “Amen.”

C Amen.

P Then, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I 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.

Stand as you are able

Gloria

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Refrain



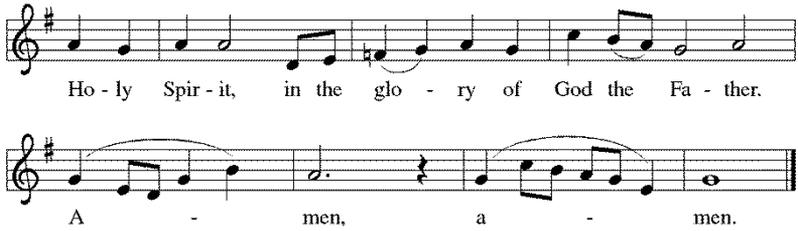
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Word of God

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

#169

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse. *Repeat alleluia*

My sheep | hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them and they | follow me.

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

At the announcement of the Gospel:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] 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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So 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.

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.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’;

but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

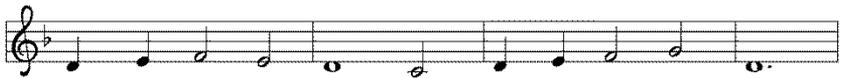
Sermon

Pastor Bridger

Stand as you are able

Song of the Day

"At the Name of Jesus," #416



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

Confession of Faith

P With the Church of every time and every place, we confess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

C **Amen.**

A I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

C **Amen.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord in your mercy. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation

Presentation of the Offering "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing,"

Valerie Shields

A Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, you adorn our lives with neighbors to love, bread to share, and good news to tell. Help us embrace our work with joy, and use what we have gathered to glorify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Supper

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

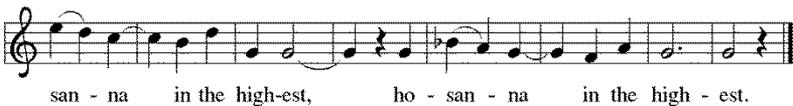
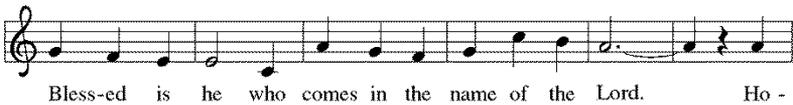
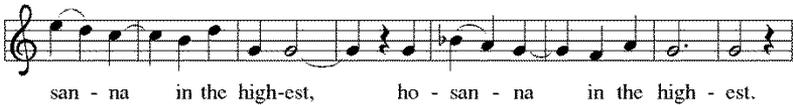
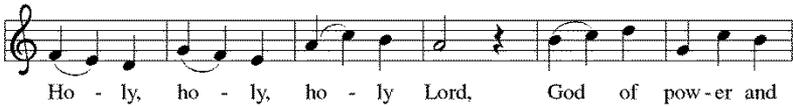
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

By the singers—



P It is certainly right to thank and praise you ... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Gracious Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit . . . now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

You may be seated

Communion

By the singers—

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, grant us peace.

When all have communed, stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

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.

Sending

Blessing

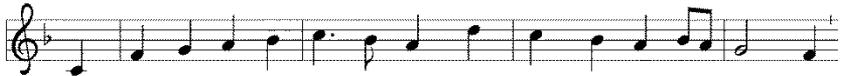
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

Sending Song “What God Ordains is Good Indeed,” #776 stanzas 1, 4



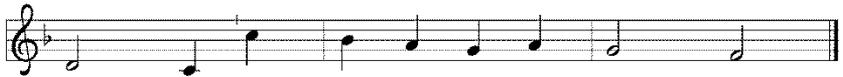
1 What God or - dains is good in - deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
2 What God or - dains is good in - deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
3 What God or - dains is good in - deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
4 What God or - dains is good in - deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
on dan - ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“At the Name of Jesus” Robert J. Powell

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Serving Today

Preaching Minister – Pastor Bridger

Presiding Minister – Pastor BBurce

Assisting Minister/Lector – Nancy Richter (8:30); Mike Allan(10)

Acolytes – Gavin Waugaman(8:30); Adam Digney (10)

Singers – Don & Leonie Braun (8:30);
Nigel Copeland, Tim Rosenberger (10)

Organist – Connie Triplett

Deacons –Frank Beodray, Ray Durban (8:30);
Russ Digney (10)

Welcoming Team – Debbie & Steve Schneider

Sound Technician – Jared Waugaman

Altar Guild – Marilyn Edwards, Martha Trapp

In Our Prayers

- The Church in its ongoing ministry witnessing to God's goodness in the world
- The work of Lutheran Disaster Relief and other agencies providing aide in the midst of the aftermath of storms and wildfires
- Educators as they go about the work of educating and investing in students and their families
- Our local business community, especially businesses which are struggling most
- Those with health concerns or recovering from surgeries: Carla Barrett, Kim Berghaus, Emerson Buskirk, Rose Farmer, and Kevin Gusty (father of Kristi Neumann), Dan Rossbach, Rita-Ann and Tom Shaffer

Altar Flowers Are Given

In memory of his “Dear wife, my Angel—Cheryl” by David Kucera

This Week’s Commemorations

Sept. 28—Jehu Jones, d. 1852, the first African American Lutheran pastor.

Sept. 29—ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

Sept. 30—JEROME, d. 420, translator of the Vulgate, the Latin Bible used in churches for over 1500 years.

God’s Word for Next Week Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46
We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.

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Servants and Missionaries – All MLC members

Senior Pastor – Jerome Burce

Associate Pastor – Seth Bridger

Minister of Youth – Adonai Henderson

Pastoral Assistant – Ruth Mortensen

Music Director – Connie Triplett

Messiah School Principal – Helen Casselberry

Administrator & Pierstorff Memorial Fund Director – Darlene Waugh



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.

To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.