

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20th, 2026 - Service of Prayer & Preaching - LSB 260ff

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as "laborers for his harvest" (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear "the burden of the day and the scorching heat" on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12-15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that "Ye may be found" (Is. 55:6), "have compassion" and "abundantly pardon" (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, "whether by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20), by "fruitful labor" (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are "worthy of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

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Announcements

Opening Hymn | 712 "Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by
right - eous - ness, And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev - ry word That pro - ceeds from the
add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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Opening Versicles

This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
Teach me Your paths.
Sanctify us in Your truth.
Your Word is truth.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey,
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Collect for the Word

Let us pray: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

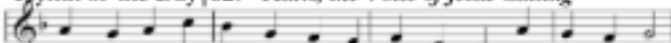
Please be seated

Today's Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah 55:6-9

"Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let 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.
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

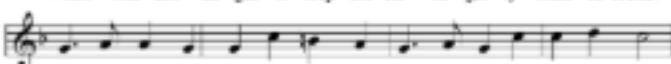
Hymn of the Day | 827 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"



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;
3 For as rain and snow from heav-en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,
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 heav-en mid-day, Oth-ers late in af - ter-noon;
Caus - ing them to bud and flow-er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil,
When with His an - gel - ic reap-ers He in glo-ry shall de-scend.



Lead 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,
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Soon the right, 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,
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease,
Then the souls His grace has ear - n - ed Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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Sermon

Offering

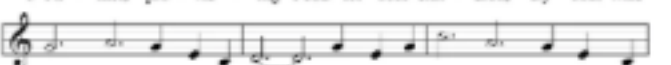
In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay | Scan QR
Phone stand.



Offertory Hymn | 789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"



1 Praise and thank - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed, Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share, One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bles - som and wood,
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread,
joie - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

Text (st. 1): Daniel Marck, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 2–4): Stephen P. Stebbins, 1955.
Tune: Joseph Burdick, 1838–96. Text (st. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Stebbins, *subito*. Concordia
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Prayers of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** [1 Timothy 2:1–4]

For wisdom from the Word of God, that we may lead fruitful lives in the midst of a foolish world, and that we would learn to become like our divine Master, who puts the last first, pardons sinners and works death into great gain for His servants, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who serve in the Lord's kingdom, that we would be ever mindful that it is only by grace we are privileged to serve in it, and that Christ would be honored in our bodies, in life as we serve Him without fear, and in departing this life to be with Him, which is far better, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, that the Lord would bless all people in their callings and in service to their neighbors; and for all authorities, that they would serve on behalf of the defenseless, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, depressed, lonely, ignored, shut in or in any need, (especially _____), that God would keep them in the certainty that to live is Christ and to die is gain, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Morning Prayer (spoken together)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

Mealtime Prayer

We live not, Lord, by bread alone;
Without Thy kindness bread were stone.
For bread and for Thy kindly word,
We thank and bless Thee, God our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

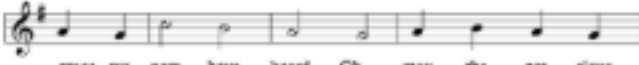
Thanks be to God

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, Bless and Preserve us. **Amen.**

Hymn of Departure | 923 "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pec - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - love; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dust fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text (st. 1–2): Church Poetry, 1823, Philadelphia, alt.; (st. 3): Thomas Ken, 1637–1711.
Tune: Tenor quattro Voces of David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Text and tune: Public domain.

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The Epistle Reading is from Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel reading.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew 20:1-16

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?' ¹⁴'Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.' ¹⁵'Am 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Oh Christ

Responsory

Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Lord, I love the habitation of Your house
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Apostle's Creed (spoken together)

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.

Lord's Prayer (spoken together)

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.

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward for a message by Pastor Fitch.