
☞ Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ☞

ORDER OF WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS
LBW #370

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love, whose presence calms our fears, and whose word brings life.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: Steadfast and faithful God,

All: **you have revealed the ways of justice,**

yet we fear to follow you.

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have

for the sake of others, even our own siblings.

For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others

and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away

from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you

and set us on the path of your love;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

WL: Beloved in Christ, have no fear! The Almighty God, in mercy, has chosen to suffer and die for us. God's love and justice stretch beyond all understanding. God's mercy and compassion are beyond compare. In Jesus, God loves us unconditionally. In ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven. Go now and serve our risen Savior with joy and gladness!

All: **Amen!**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE

COME AND GO WITH ME

Come and go with me to my Father's house,
to my Father's house, to my Father's house.
Come and go with me to my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!

You will find a welcome in my Father's house,
in my Father's house, in my Father's house.
You will find a welcome in my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!

You can bring your burdens to my Father's house,
to my Father's house, to my Father's house.
You can bring your burdens to my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!

You'll find peace and healing in my Father's house,
in my Father's house, in my Father's house.
You'll find peace and healing in my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!

We'll sing hallelujah in my Father's house,
in my Father's house, in my Father's house.
We'll sing hallelujah in my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy . . .
where there's joy, joy, joy . . .
where there's joy, joy, joy!

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Teach us to love each other as you love us, free us from fear, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 4:1-9

R: Our First Lesson for this Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost is from the fourth chapter of Genesis.

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 4:19-21

R: Our Second Lesson is from First John, the fourth chapter.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ VERSE

DON'T BE AFRAID

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
And I have promised, promised to be always near.**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 14:1-7

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION
LBW #507

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **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

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PARISH CHOIR

AS A LITTLE CHILD

by Joseph M. Martin

*O you must become as a little child,
as a little child and come unto Him.
Yes, you must become as a little child
to share in the kingdom of God.
Come unto Jesus, run into His arms.
Come unto Jesus and you can share the kingdom of God.*

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

JESUS, THY BOUNDLESS LOVE TO ME
LBW #336

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

✠ BLESSING

WL: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING HYMN

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS
LBW #377

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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COME AND GO WITH ME - CCLI Song # 5016761

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