



Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus, and sharing the joy of God's love.

September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15am

Holy Communion

Introduction to the Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

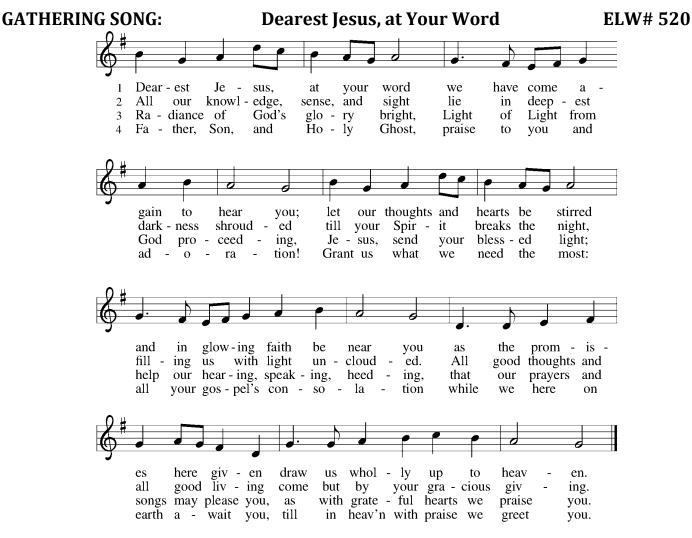
Let us confess our sin before God and each other, asking the Lord to remember divine compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness.

God has no pleasure in the death of anyone. Turn, then, and live. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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. **Amen.**



Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet each other. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

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.

Amen.

The assembly sits.



Word God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

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?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD. ***You are gracious and up- right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way. ***You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

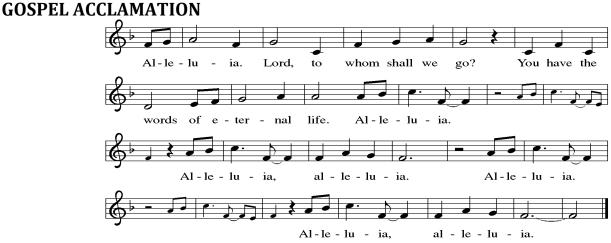
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

P: 🕂 The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

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 vinevard 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."

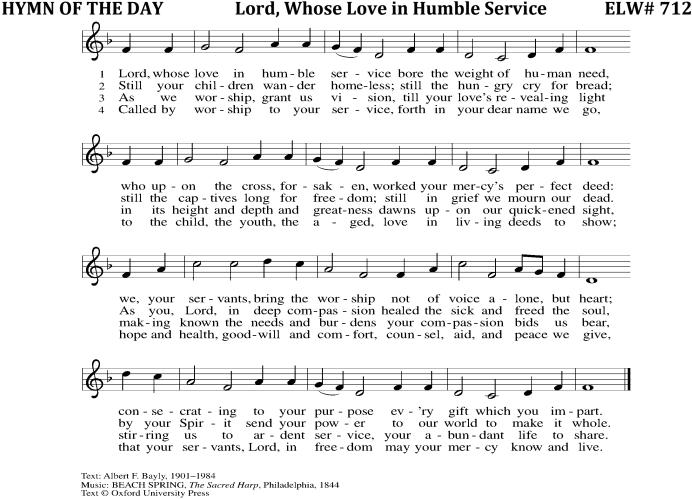
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated. **SERMON**

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



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APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: O God, you are full of compassion; C: graciously hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

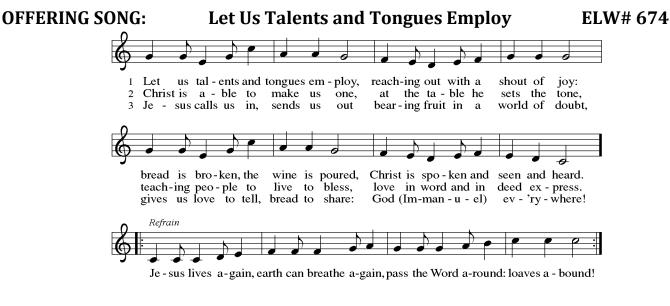
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

The assembly sits.



MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SETTING THE TABLE



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929 Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980 Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company. Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

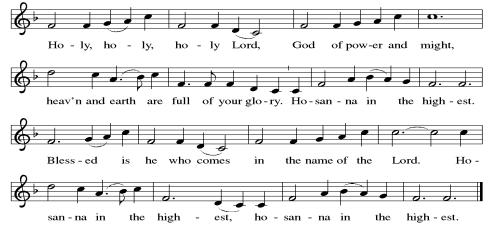
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

We praise you eternal God, ...

...with thanksgiving we lift this bread and cup before you and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.:

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.

Communion

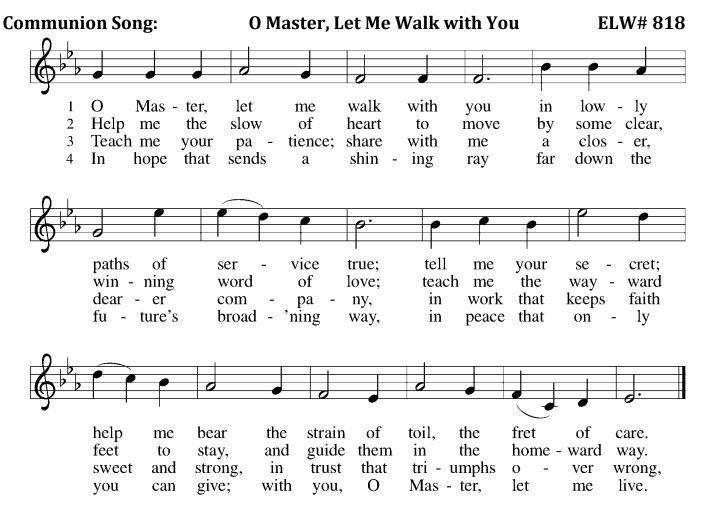
The bread is broken for the communion.

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God





Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt. Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**



God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

BLESSING

All may make the sign of the cross as they receive God's blessing.

Almighty, Father, 🕂 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

Voices Raised to You

ELW# 845



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C: Thanks be to God.**



RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY OUTSIDE!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be given today by Pastor Bob in the church parking lot, in front of the main entrance from 12:00pm—12:30pm. It will be drive through. Please follow the ushers' directions on arrival and maintain social distancing. Please wear a mask except when receiving the sacrament.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Eric Castaneda, Kelly Jacobson, Carol Jacobson, Randy Mottesheard, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Rosie & Jimmy Fennelli, Roy Kaptain, Pat Engle.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

★ Eric Hecker, E. Kuckert, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Cheryl, Robert, Jerry, Braemen, Craig, Taylor, Joe, Jan, Carol, Sharon, Susie, Belinda, Marjorie, Roy, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Chuck, Pat, Bruce, Carol, Valerie, Jason, Melissa, Annie, Chantal Martel, Jane, Greg, Chipper, Camille, James, Carolyne, Jon.

IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433
Normagene Richardson – Woodlands at John Knox 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Room: 2208 Phone: 954-247-5806
Jim Loggins – John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Bud Danker – 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.

Annual Blessing of the Animals: October 3

Each year on the first Saturday in October we bless your pets on the front porch of the church in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4. This year due to the pandemic the day will be scaled back a bit, but none-the-less will go on! Mark your calendars: On Saturday, **October 3 from 10:30am to 12noon**, the Pastor will be present in front of the church to give your pet a



blessing. We will not have vendors or food this year, but we will have some items to give away, and each pet (real or stuffed!) will get a certificate as well as a metal tag for their collar. We will maintain social distancing this year and we ask that you wear a mask. Spread the word—all are welcome. Set aside some time on October 3 to stop by the church with your pets for a blessing!



During the pandemic, St. Stephen congregation has taken on the mission to support Feeding South Florida. With unemployment at near record highs, more people are food insecure than ever. Feeding South Florida is the largest, most efficient food bank serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-

Dade, and Monroe Counties. More than 98% of all donations are put back into the community. Thank you so much for your generosity. Keep up the good work, we will continue to support this work throughout October. Send your loose change to Church and let's fill up the Change for Change Tower. You may give on line by following the link on our homepage at: www.ststephenlutheran.net

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