

SEVENTEETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2020 ♦ 10:00 am



GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God,

C we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN "Voices Raised to You We Offer" (stanzas 1 and 5)



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
A **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**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for **God is working in you** to will and to act according to his good purpose.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he 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?" ²⁴ Jesus 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. ²⁵ Did 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?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So 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.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which 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. ³² For 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.

HYMN "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (stanzas 1, 2 and 4)



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
 2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, if you can - not preach like Paul,
 3 If you can - not be a watch - man, stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
 4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing, who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
 you can tell the love of Je - sus; you can say he died for all.
 point - ing out the path to heav - en, of - f'ring life and peace to all,
 while the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing and the mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the mas - ter calls you; rich re - ward he of - fers free.
 If you can - not rouse the wick - ed with the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
 with your prayers and with your boun - ties you can do what God de - mands;
 Take the task he gives you glad - ly; let his work your plea - sure be.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I. Send me, send me?"
 you can lead the lit - tle chil - dren to the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
 you can be like faith - ful Aar - on, hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
 An - swer quick - ly when he calls you, "Here am I. Send me, send me!"

SERMON

SONG "Change My Heart, O God"



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

**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

(Response to each petition)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

OFFERING

While we cannot offer our gifts in worship, we can still support the ministry of our congregation with our treasures. **Please remember to mail in your offering or make your offering online.** Click on the **DONATE** link on the front page of our website to make a one-time or an ongoing contribution.

LORD'S PRAYER

AI 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

BLESSING

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C Amen

HYMN "Renew Me, O Eternal Light" (stanzas 1, 3, and 4)



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, and let my
2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me and cleanse all
3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, that glad - ly
4 Grant that I on - ly you may love and seek those



heart and soul be bright, il - lu - mined with the light of
my im - pu - ri - ty, that I may have the strength and
I o - bey your word. Let what you will be my de -
things which are a - bove, till I be - hold you face to



grace that is - sues from your ho - ly face.
will temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
sire, and with new life my soul in - spire.
face, O Light e - ter - nal, through your grace.



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WORDS that lead to JESUS

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BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 at 9:30 am
Live in-person at church and also live-streaming

GRACE GROUPS will be gathering in-person or remotely (with FaceTime or Zoom)
Please contact church to get connected with a Grace Group

Details (including contact forms and schedule) on our website

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WELCOME BACK. WELCOME HOME.

+ GRACE OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

In-person worship returns SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 at 9:00 am
Worship will always be live streamed and recorded for online viewing

The safety and health of our congregation is important! Our lives are a gift to us and WE are gifts to each other - gifts that we will protect and cherish. Please follow our guidelines and precautions as we gather in our building.

Details (including a list of our "Welcome Back. Welcome Home" guidelines) on our website.

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