



September 20, 2026 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

In our Gospel reading for today, a master of a house goes and hires laborers throughout the day, offering each a denarius (a normal day's wage). When the laborers who are hired last, at the end of the day, receive the same amount as those hired first, those who were hired first grumble. The master responds, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to the last worker as I give to you" (Matt. 20:13-14). Then Jesus concludes, "So the last will be first, and the first last" (Matt. 20:16). This seems backwards to us; it seems unfair. And this is where our Old Testament reading helps us out: "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" (Isaiah 55:8-9). It may seem backwards and unfair to us, but God's ways are not our ways. In fact, God's ways bring us Jesus Christ, the author of our salvation, who gives forgiveness, life, and salvation to you and puts you within the community of fellow believers.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 905, "Come, Thou Almighty King"*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Pastor: Lord, have mercy.
All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 204).*

All: 1. To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing – our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2. To You, O sole begotten, the Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry, where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.

3. For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, be worshipped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High, in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:6–9*

⁶ "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ 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. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 27:1–9*

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Pastor: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

People: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Pastor: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

People: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

People: You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

Pastor: Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.

People: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

EPISTLE READING *Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ... ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as 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. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only 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, ²⁸ and 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. ²⁹ For 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, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 20:1–16*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And 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.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, '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.' ¹³ But 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?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 660, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"*

SERMON Philippians 1:20-28 "Standing Firm for Christ" with Pastor Lampe

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 785, "We Praise You, O God"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that**

under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 208)*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... His body and blood.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 210)*

All: **1. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

2. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 618, "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 729, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"

LSB 744, "Amazing Grace"

SONG OF SIMEON *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 211)*

All: 1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 918, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Next Week's Readings: September 27, 2026 – St. Michael and All Angels

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

Psalm 91

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 10:17-20

Service adapted from Divine Service Setting 4, LSB 203-212.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of September 20, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Faith Wright & Hallee
Trinity, Freistatt - Rev. Jake Sletten

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
 Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)
 Becky – (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)
 Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
 Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)
 Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
 Stan Crandal – (recovery from surgery)
 Charlene Dart – (Linda Myers' sister-in-law – cancer)
 Mike & Edith – (friends of Sue Doss)
 Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)
 McGee family – (health and healing)
 The family of Nancy Keegan (hope and comfort)
 Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step-mother – health and healing)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
 Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)
 Jim Key (health and healing)
 Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
 Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
 Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)
 Rachel Sanford – (upcoming surgery)
 Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
 Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)
 Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
 John White (health and healing)
 Christina Wienstroer (Cheryl Lile's daughter–for her difficulties)
 William – (Ardella's son)
 Kandi Wood – (friend of Cathy Munden – hospital)

Long Term

Ardella – (health and healing)
 Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)
 Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
 Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
 Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)
 Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)
 Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
 Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 LD Cantrell – (brother-in-law of Charlie & Edee Chambers – hospice)
 Dortha Dennis – (health and healing)
 Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
 Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
 Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
 Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
 Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
 Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
 Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
 LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
 Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
 Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
 Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

		WEEK
Sunday	Sept. 20th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	Sept. 21st	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	Sept. 23rd	Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Friday	Sept. 25th	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Sept. 27^h	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	Sept. 28th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Birthdays: Sept. 24-Vaughn Bowling & Judah Granderson

Anniversaries: None

September

Greeters

20-Bill & Joanne Michel

27-Charlie & Edee Chambers

Ushers

20-Charlie Chambers

27-David Lampe

Outreach meeting *today*, September 20, immediately following the church service.

Project Rise - Grace will serve at Project Rise on October 7. We are now accepting donations this Sunday and next for use for Project Rise. See Bernie for more details.

Neighborhood Picnic is coming up next Saturday, September 26, from 6 pm-8 pm. We hope to see you there! As we prepare for the picnic, we are in need of 3 cakes for the cake walk. If you would like to bring one of the cakes, please see the signup sheet in the narthex. Additionally, we will need volunteers to set up for the picnic starting at 5 pm September 26. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex if you are able to help out.

Sunday Bible Class - Why do we begin the service with confession? Why does Pastor say "in the stead and by the command of Christ..."? Why do we have four Scripture readings every Sunday? Are they connected to each other? Is there any Biblical basis for why we do the things we do on Sunday morning? We will seek to answer these questions (and more) in our Sunday morning Bible class. If you've ever wondered why we worship the way we do, then come and join us!

Wednesday Evening Bible Class has resumed on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the church basement. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commands that His disciples "Go and make disciples... baptizing... and teaching..." We have been made into His disciples through baptism. Now, what does it look like to live as a disciple of Jesus? What does He teach His disciples in His first sermon in Matthew's Gospel?

Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, MO, invites you to attend a musical concert on September 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. The concert theme is "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God" and will include vocal and instrumental music, solos, duets, and choirs. In addition, there will be 4 congregation hymns emphasizing our God, our journey, our foundation, and our nation. Come and enjoy the music of "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God". Please join us.

After the concert at 5:00 p.m. there will a historical presentation about **Trinity's first teacher, Henry Nehrling**. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall at the school. There will be a light supper of sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres in the Fellowship Hall. Additional information in the narthex.