

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020



This document is for use only during remote worship by members and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC, and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any fashion.

Liturgical texts and music from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26951.

Scripture quotations are from Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, and 1971 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## Welcome and Worship Announcements

### Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.**

### Gloria

“Glory to God in the Highest”

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.  
I Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you  
*Refrain*  
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

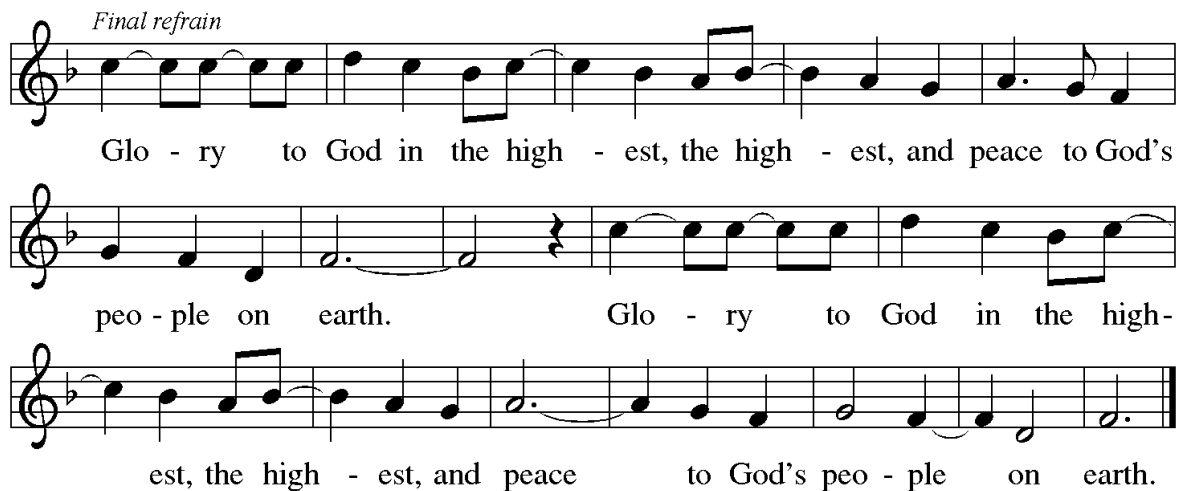


Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's  
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### Greeting

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

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.**

### Psalm 25:1-8

Sung by all

- <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;  
 let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- <sup>2</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
 let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.
- <sup>3</sup>Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
 and teach | me your paths.
- <sup>4</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
 for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- <sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compass- | sion and love,  
 for they are from | everlasting.
- <sup>6</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
 remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- <sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright | is the LORD;  
 therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.
- <sup>8</sup>He guides the humble in | doing right  
 and teaches his way | to the lowly.

## First Reading

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What 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”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know 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.

Yet 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? When 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. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet 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?

Therefore 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. Cast 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? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God.

Turn, then, and live.

## Second Reading

**Philippians 2:1-13**


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

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

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

Therefore, 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; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel

Matthew 21: 23-32

The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

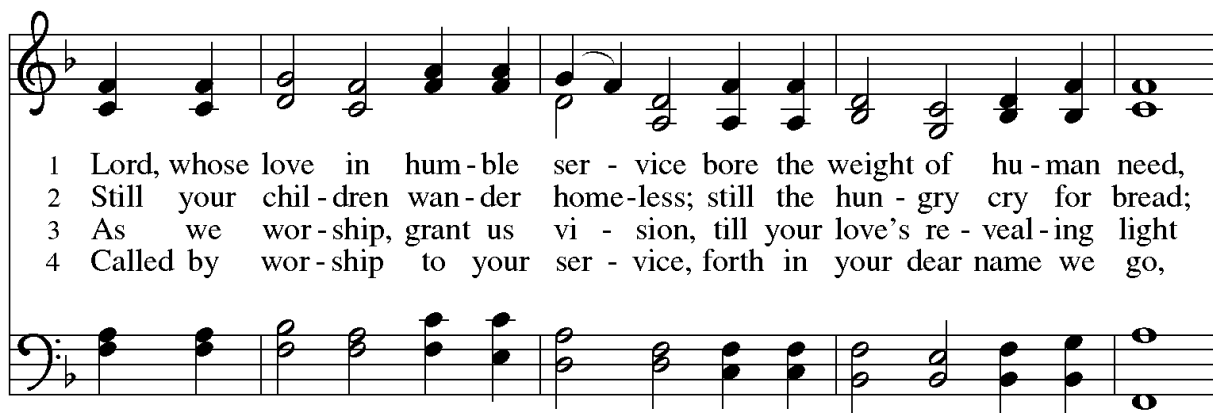
When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 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?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." 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.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. 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. 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."

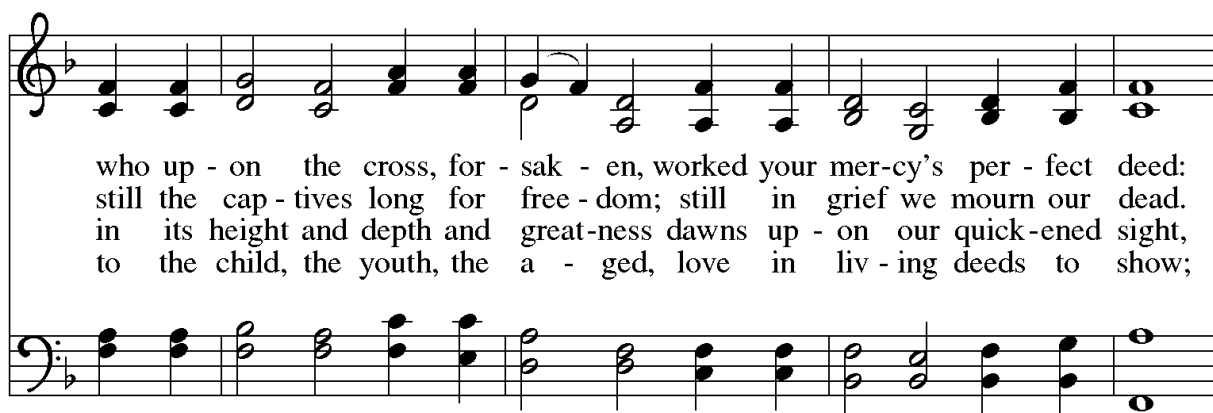
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

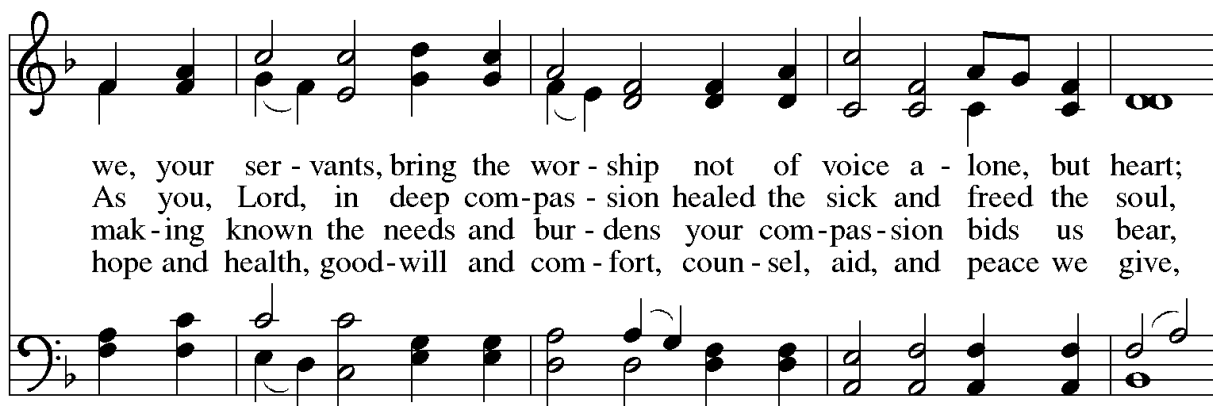
*Silence for reflection follows the sermon*



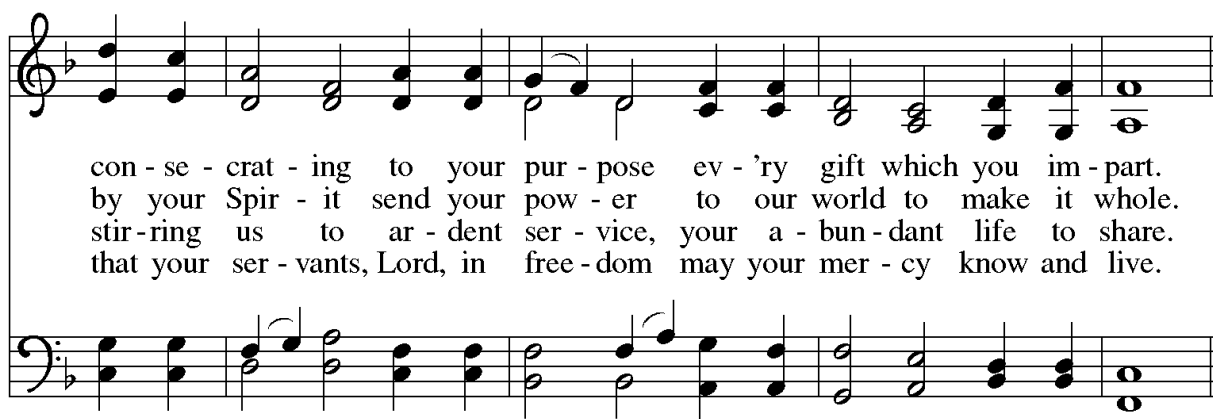
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

## 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 into hell.  
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

Peace

Offering

## Thanksgiving for the Word

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,  
for calling creation into being,  
declaring forgiveness from the cross,  
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:  
**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

*Gen. 1:3*  
*Luke 23:34*  
*John 3:5*

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,  
a shield providing us refuge,  
a fire burning for justice and truth.  
Your word is sweeter than honey:  
it nourishes our bodies like milk,  
it sustains your people like bread.  
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.  
We bless you, O God, for your Word:  
**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

*Ps. 119:105*  
*James 1:23*  
*Prov. 30:5*  
*Jer. 23:29*  
*Ps. 119:103*  
*1 Pet. 2:2*  
*Matt. 14:20*  
*Ps. 19:10*

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
and to all the cries of the needy.  
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

*Eph. 2:19-20*  
*James 5:4*  
*John 20:22*  
*Ps. 29:9*  
*Rom. 16:25-26*

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --  
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word. Amen.**



## Lord's Prayer





1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,  
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,  
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name  
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due  
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.  
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,  
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,  
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.  
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,  
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,  
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;  
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;  
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.  
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.  
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.  
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.  
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877  
 Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Music from *Songs of Praise*, © Oxford University Press 1925.

**Announcements and Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**