



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Henrik Sonntag, Pastor  
120 N. Easton Road  
Glenside, PA  
215-884-3005

# GATHERING

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THE PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Lord of Light" (Abbot's Leigh)*

David Lasky

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. 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. OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

No. 688 Lord of Light

Abbot's Leigh

## Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

### *Refrain*



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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# 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.**

## KYRIE

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.



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



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in 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.



Glo-ry to God in 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.



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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### THE FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10--4:11

<sup>3:10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

**The Word of the Lord.** Thanks be to God.

## THE PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

*8:00 The Psalm will be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.*

*10:30 The antiphon is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print***



The LORD is slow to an-ger and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Psalm 145:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my <sup>1</sup> God and king,  
and bless your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Every day <sup>1</sup> will I bless you**  
**and praise your name forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised!  
There is no end <sup>1</sup> to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works <sup>1</sup> to another**  
**and shall de- <sup>1</sup> clare your power. R**
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your majesty  
and all your <sup>1</sup> marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your <sup>1</sup> wondrous acts,**  
**and I will re- <sup>1</sup> count your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of <sup>1</sup> your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully <sup>1</sup> of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,**  
**slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love. R**

## THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

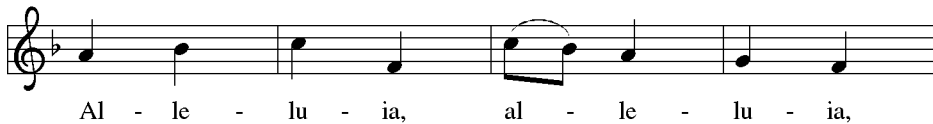
<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—  
<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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*Repeat alleluia*





# THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Henrik Sonntag

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 724 All Who Love and Serve Your City

*New Orleans*

### All Who Love and Serve Your City



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who  
2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your  
3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed  
4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the  
5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -  
work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of  
Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that  
cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,  
treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.  
Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."  
spurns him, of - f'ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.  
glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Text: Erik Routley, 1917-1982

Music: NEW ORLEANS, Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

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**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please kneel or sit for the prayers:* This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind especially all those on our prayer list. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven (*especially*). United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

# RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS - Pastor Fred and Joan Hopke

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace  
saying "Peace be with you."*

*Please be seated*

## MEAL

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## OFFERING

*Love's Endeavor, Love's Expense*


Russell Schulz-Widmar

Pastor Henrik Sonntag, clarinet

Chancel Choir

*Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering




We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an




of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Concludes with ... **Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. **And** al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

# THE SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,', 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the', 'high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -', and 'san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

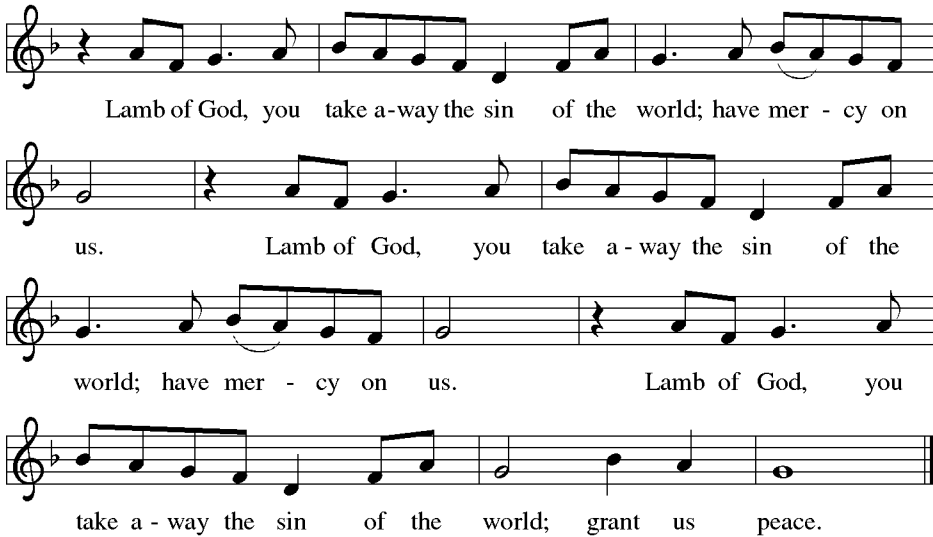
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*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

No. 588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Lord, Revive*



## There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

# THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

# THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen.**

## SENDING

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THE BLESSING

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## THE SENDING HYMN

No. 669 *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

Festal Song

## Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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*Please be seated for the announcements.*

## PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

**SENDING:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**THE POSTLUDE** *Chorale Prelude on "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"*

*(Festal Song)*

Jacob B. Weber